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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Declares Readiness To Fight Beside Iraq

JN1811152890 Baghdad INA in English 1425 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Tunis, Nov 18, INA—President Yasir 'Arafat of Palestine met here today a delegation of the Iraqi professional unions headed by Mr Muhammad Tahir al-Hayali, chairman of the agronomists union currently visiting Tunisia.

During the meeting, President 'Arafat renewed the Palestinian people's support for Iraq and expressed their readiness to stand in the same trench with the Iraqis to ward off the vicious aggression led by the United States and its allies.

The Palestinian President called on the Arab masses to practice their effective role in this particular stage to defeat enemies of the Arabism.

'Arafat Urges Protection for All Palestinians

JN1911192690 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Nov 90

["Text" of message sent by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to the 22d annual congress of the Arab Palestinian Fund, currently held in the United States; date not given—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Brother 'Uthman Marar, president of the Executive Committee of the Arab Palestinian Fund; brother chairman of the 22d congress of the Fund; brother and sister members of the congress: Revolutionary greetings. On the occasion of the 22d annual congress of the Arab Palestinian Fund, it pleases me to extend to you in the name of our Palestinian Arab people, my brother members of the PLO Executive Committee, and in my name, the best fraternal greetings and most sincere wishes of success for your esteemed congress and achievement of its goals. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters: Our people, whose desire for peace was reflected in the adoption by the Palestine National Council of a peace initiative based on legitimate world resolutions and our people's firm right to self determination, are looking in particular to the Security Council, hoping it will deal with the Palestine question with the same degree of seriousness and firmness it has used in dealing with the Gulf crisis, and to apply the same standard to Israel, which refuses to comply with its resolutions or acknowledge Palestinian human rights and denies the national rights of our people.

The growing bloody crimes by the Israeli occupation forces and the gangs of fanatic settlers against our Palestinian people, as part of a plan of genocide and organized transfer, dictate that the United States in particular stop providing protection for these Israeli crimes and using double standards concerning the Palestine question and the national Palestinian rights. This would allow the world community and the Security Council to adopt firm resolutions providing international protection for our people as a first step toward convening the UN-sponsored international conference for peace in the Middle East with the participation of the Security Council's five permanent member states and all parties to the conflict—including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people—on an equal footing.

We trust that your congress will seriously discuss these grave matters and adopt resolutions and recommendations commensurate with the noble tasks of the Arab Palestinian Fund, especially enhancing coordination and cooperation among Arab institutions in the United State and unifying their action, consolidating support for our people under the yoke of occupation—who are now suffering a suffocating financial and economic siege—and supporting the Palestinian people's just struggle under the leadership of the PLO until we achieve our common goals of ending the Israeli occupation, liberating our sanctities, determining the future of our Palestinian people, establishing our independent state on our national soil, and defending higher pan-Arab interests.

Finally, I wish you and your esteemed congress every success. Together we march toward victory and liberated Jerusalem, with God's help. It is a revolution until victory.

'Arafat Receives British MPs Walters, Gilmour

LD1911182190 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Brother leader President Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], head of the State of Palestine, has received in Tunis Dennis Walters, member of the British House of Commons and chairman of the Middle East committee, and Ian Gilmour, member of the House of Commons and former British defense secretary, both of whom are members of the British Conservative Party. The meeting focused on the situation in the Middle East, particularly the Gulf crisis, and the efforts made to find a negotiated and peaceful settlement within an Arab framework and under an international umbrella. The talks also covered the latest developments in the Palestine issue and our Palestinian people's intifadah in the occupied territories under the specter of escalating Israeli terrorism and repression against our people.

PLO Hails Iraqi Decision on Hostage Release

LD1911212990 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] In a statement issued yesterday the Iraqi Revolution Command Council decided to allow all foreigners to leave Iraq as of 25 December 1990. Commenting on the decision, a PLO official spokesman said the following: Iraq's decision of today [as heard] allowing all foreigners to travel as of 25 December is a major step toward detente. It provides the right climate for dialogue between all the parties concerned in the Gulf crisis, which has been stressed by the Iraqi leadership since the beginning, with a view to finding political solutions to all

of the region's problems—in view of this being the only way to avert the specter of a destructive war, the effects of which will go beyond the Arab nation's border to affect the future and needs of humanity as a whole.

The PLO hails this Iraqi position which reaffirms humanitarian concepts and reaffirms their importance in major conflicts. The organization [PLO] said that Iraq's decision provides a golden opportunity to put matters on a course that will lead to a solution safeguarding the rights and dignity of all. The organization recalls its firm position since the outset of the crisis that dialogue, and only dialogue, is the means to resolve the crisis—away from the war drums which some are still beating and demanding—and that a solution must be Arab under an international umbrella.

U.S. Presence Based on 'Economic' Reasons

JN1911182890 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers: What we are going to say is both clear and specific, and we have said it right from the beginning. Because we have read the situation so carefully, we were faced with a rabid campaign. We did not retreat in front of this campaign despite its injustice, fanaticism, and suspect motives that cannot be separated from the positions of suspicion.

What we are going to say is substantial and realistic. However, [words indistinct] more than three months of American deception, hidden behind the great clamor of the drums of war and which has operated its propaganda organs at their maximum level to conceal from world public opinion—particularly American public opinion—the reality of the American military presence in the Gulf, its objectives, and aims.

President Bush, and a few days before him his Secretary of State Baker, revealed what was hidden when the master of war at the White House announced that in addition to principles the economy is among the reasons for our action. America is facing a difficult economic situation, such as increasing unemployment. Baker said, more clearly, that the reason for the American military presence in the Gulf is the economic recession and the need to secure the flow of oil, our lifeline.

Baker did well as he did not cite principles. No Arab ruler whoever he is, nor the Arab people anywhere, nor the whole Arab nation figure in the calculations of President Bush as he mobilizes all this military machinery for war. But interests which he described as strategic or vital for the United States and the U.S. economy are what moved him and will continue to move him to achieve his evil promises to destroy the region.

The Arabs, who were worried from the beginning, are not the only ones who should read the statements made by President Bush and his secretary of state carefully, but also Europe, the USSR, and China so they will all know full well that the United States, which mobilized this huge military campaign and deployed it in the Gulf, did not do so in order to defend legitimacy, human rights, or the rights of nations. It has done it primarily to guarantee its interests, to solve its economic problems, and to achieve its objectives of controlling the world economy.

A person must use reason to take into account everybody's interests in light of these U.S. statements. Neither the U.S. Administration nor President Bush can continue to deceive American public opinion, and his popularity is decreasing. Therefore, he tried to drag American public opinion into the promised land of oil and honey and make them believe that war is their salvation and their panacea that will cure them of unemployment and recession. It is as if the hundreds of thousands recruited for war and death are not the sons of the American people. It is also as if the Arabs, who will face the destruction of a comprehensive war, were created to be sacrificed on the alter of American economy and to save it from recession.

Is this the logic that swayed the Security Council when adopting all the resolutions on the Gulf crisis? If this was the logic, what is the interest of the other parties? Is saving the American ("economy) one of their vital interests? Or are these legitimacy, principles, and all the similar slogans that were raised by Bush at the beginning, but in the end he admitted the contrary?

These questions—although they appear to be simple—are not so in the [word indistinct] and human concept. Legitimacy and the rights of man and nations, which have not been respected for all these years in Palestine and with regard to the Palestinian people, and which were ignored by consecutive U.S. Administrations and British Governments, cannot be a hook for the United States to hang its pretexts on while hiding its intentions. Neither the major nor the small countries should chase after it while knowing that legitimacy does not rule the U.S. Administration. Otherwise, it would have dealt with all issues in the region and the world with the same logic, particularly when the al-Aqsa massacre and the continuous terrorist, racist massacres surprised it. These massacres require—in addition to resorting to legitimacy—a more pressing measure; namely protecting the Palestinian people, ensuring their security, and saving them from the massacres.

In light of the statements made by Bush and Baker, what is the answer of the Security Council—the African, Asian, and the Third World countries—which are threatened with starvation and not just economic recession? Do they advise them to resort to war and massacres to rid themselves of the recession that is causing the death of millions of their sons out of starvation? What do the permanent and non-permanent members [of the Security Council] say to the people who are ashamed of comparing the individual income rate in their countries with the American income rate—people who are the victims of this terrible and intentional imbalance in the distribution of wealth? Will they direct them to the American theory revealed by the American President and his secretary of state to lead them to wars of mass destruction?

Our question is the following: After this American clarity in putting interests over principles, do the Arabs of war expect to share the booty with the U.S. Administration, or even to share influence over Arab resources? In fact, do they expect to continue their relative independence? Or does securing the lifeline require that its protection must always be American? American protection also needs American bases and American military presence that will destroy the harvest of years of fighting for independence and will protect the oil from the Arabs, from Europe, from Japan, and from every other economic power.

Khalaf Says Those Beating War Drums To Pay

JN1811214590 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1930 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Brother Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], member of the Fatah Central Committee, has declared that those beating the drums of war in the Arabian Gulf know full well the heavy price they will pay if they carry out their aggression against Iraq. In a statement published by the Tunisian newspaper AKHBAR AL-JUMHURIYAH yesterday, Abu-Iyad called for the definition of a new strategy to address the international community and find a comprehensive and fair solution to all problems in the Arab region. He added that the events in the Arabian Gulf can unite Arab ranks anew because the only path to finding a political solution is bringing events back to the Arab (?framework).

Qaddumi Urges 'Arab Solution' for Gulf Crisis

LD1511140990 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, 'foreign minister of the State of Palestine,' by correspondent Nacera Bouzid; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Bouzid] Mr. Faruq Qaddumi, what are the possibilities of finding a solution to the Palestinian issue in the light of the existence of initiatives calling for the comprehensive solution to the issues of the Arab region and the rejection of these initiatives by the Israeli occupation administration?

[Qaddumi] Israel has lately attracted more Soviet emigrants and this is a proof that the world has regrettably moved now toward the worsening of the Palestinian issue. [passage omitted]

[Bouzid] The Gulf crisis led to divisions in Arab circles. What is the impact of these divisions on the central Arab issue which is the Palestinian cause?

[Qaddumi] We must look at the Gulf crisis with the right pan-Arab perspective. Briefly, if matters were left to the Arab nation, it would solve this problem. However, the United States rushed into submitting the issue to the UN Security Council so as to condemn the Iraqi stance in order to find an excuse to interfere in Arab affairs. The Arab nation has in the past faced many problems. [passage omitted]

This time, the United States had recourse to the UN Security Council to find a justification for intervention. The United States submitted a memorandum before the summit conference which was held in Iraq in the name of pan-Arab security. It [the United States] was saying in this memorandum that it was present in the Gulf and that this presence was supported by the friendly states in this Gulf, and that any resolution of the summit which harms this presence or the suport it has, will cause anxiety to the United States. In this memorandum, which it submitted to the Arab summit conference, it pointed out that the states concerned in the region must endeavor to stop and ban weapons—the mass destruction weapons—quickly, and to hold a dialogue between them, i.e. it wants us to hold a dialogue with Israel and normalize relations with it. The United States also said we should not wait until these intricate problems in the region are solved, i.e. it wants us to deal with this issue, that of the existence of mass destruction weapons, before the Palestinian problem is solved. It wants to postpone the solution of the Palestinian question forever. This is one of the components of the Gulf crisis.

Thus every Arab must understand these fundamental contents and components of the Gulf crisis with their numerous aspects. The Gulf crisis must have an Arab solution and this is the basis which guarantees security and peace in the region and the world.

[Bouzid] The last question with which we will close our dialogue is related to the awaited peace conference on the Middle East. Which point has the diplomatic moves, in coordination with the international and Arab initiatives in particular, reached?

[Qaddumi] The solution is that... [changes thought] we call for the solution to the Middle East crisis with all its related problems. Several contacts have been made at all levels to find a peaceful solution and to avoid military confrontation because the result will be a disaster for the world. However, if it is the choice of destiny and the United States continues in its stubborness, we must fight for Arab security and fight together the United States with its forces.

We are, however, eager for peace and eager for security. We want to establish peace in accordance with the international directives which say that one must resort to peaceful ways to solve the regional conflicts.

We hope that all peace-loving peoples, the friendly Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China, France, and the European states which work for peace, will exert pressure for the convening of a peace conference on the Middle East to solve the Middle East crisis with all its related problems. The world has undoubtedly started to be aware of this reality, and the Soviet-French communique is a proof of this. The visits paid by representatives of French people to Iraq in order to understand the situation and have a faithful picture are also for the sake of finding a just peace. Moreover, the persistent wish of our brothers in Iraq to free all those detained—I will not say hostages—they are the ones detained there, is a clear proof of the move toward peace. This uproar which

prevails in the United States against President Bush is undoubtedly a call toward peace. We all work for peace but we do not work for submission. If destiny requires it, and we hope that it will, for the call for the convening of the peace conference in this world to solve the Middle East crisis, for which the efforts of all states and the United Nations—so as the latter will play its fundamental role n establishing this peace—started to move in the right direction for the convening of such a conference. [as heard]

We hope that the conference will take place within a short period of time. However, there must be an Arab-Arab dialogue so that we can lay down the fundamental basis for solving many problems, particularly the Gulf problem, so that the efforts of the world will be crowned at the end with the solution to all the crises.

Libya Reportedly Expels Sabri Al-Banna

NC1711190890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1812 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] Tunis, 17 Nov (MENA)—Quoting Palestinian sources, the Tunisian newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH reports today that the Libyan authorities have recently expelled Abu-Nidal Sabri al-Banna.

The Libyan authorities had previously closed down the offices of the Palestine Liberation Front led by Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas].

PLO Denies Involvement in Santiago Explosion

JN1911161890 Baghdad INA in English 1400 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Tunis, Nov 19, INA—The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) denied news reports holding the PLO responsible for the explosion that took place in Santiago, capital of Chile.

In a statement released here last nigh, a Palestinian official spokesman said that the PLO considered these baseless claims as a mean attempt to damage the organization's reputation and taint the image of the Palestinian struggle against the Zionist occupation.

The spokesman confirmed that the PLO condemned such criminal acts all dubious attempts inspired by U.S.-backed Zionist circles and medias. [sentence as received]

South Asia Regional Affairs

SAARC Ministerial Deliberations Reported

BK1911163190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] is to hold a ministrial meeting to formulate a common stand on global economic issues. The foreign ministers of the seven member countries, who took the decision in Male today at the end of their two-day deliberations, accepted the Indian offer to host the meeting. They also approved the SAARC travel document scheme for visa exemption facility for the supreme court judges and parliament members. Regarding the setting up of a SAARC regional fund, the foreign ministers agreed to drop a move for mobilization of external resources because of opposition from India.

Our correspondent Bahadur Singh reports that the foreign ministers also recommended the adoption of the regional convention on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances at the summit beginning on Wednesday [21 November].

The foreign ministers set the stage for a SAARC summit meeting of the heads of government and state by approving the draft at the Male declaration. Our correspondent Mr. M. Rama Rao reports that the declaration also speaks of the SAARC resolve to observe the current decade as the girl child decade and named 1992 as the year of environment.

Kashmir Committee Appeals to SAARC Leaders

BK1911165990 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] The Kashmir Action Committee has appealed to heads of state attending the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit to take serious note of the brutalities being committed by Indian forces in occupied Kashmir since January this year. The appeal, issued in Lahore today, has been conveyed telegraphically to SAARC heads of state, saying the uprising in Kashmir is indigenous and spontaneous. It said India has failed to honor its pledges to Kashmiris and to the world community through United Nations for a free and fair plebiscite.

SAARC Draft Declaration on Terrorism Viewed

BK2011064990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] The draft Male declaration, which sets the turn for the fifth SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit opening tomorrow, has called upon member nations to carry out the resolution on curbing terrorism soon. It poin s out that scarce resources are now being diverted for the fight against terrorism and wants member countries to continue to cooperate among themselves to end the menace. A strong case has also been made out in the draft for the massive international help for SAARC countries to tide over the impact of the Gulf crisis, climatic changes, and the sea level rise.

AIR [All India Radio] correspondent Rama Rao reports that the inaugural session of the summit in the Maldivian capital tomorrow will lay stress on the problem of the girl child. Fourteen girls, two each from the seven countries, will present an appeal to the heads of the government and state to make united efforts to help end discrimination against the girl child.

Egypt

Agenda of Upcoming Mubarak-Bush Talks Examined

NC1711085790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0653 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH says that President Husni Mubarak is currently preparing the agenda for his coming talks with U.S. President George Bush. President Bush will arrive in Cairo on Friday for a two-day visit.

In its edition today, AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the two visits by President Mubarak to Damascus and Surt, where he held lengthy talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, were held within the framework of the preparations for Bush's visit.

The newspaper adds that President Mubarak will discuss with the U.S. President the status of relations between Washington and both Damascus and Tripoli and the means to improve them. President Mubarak will also underline the need for U.S. efforts to lift the sanctions imposed by the West against Syria and Libya. Such efforts are particularly needed in the case of Syria whose classification as a country supporting terrorism subjects it to boycott and economic embargo and bars it from receiving aid.

The newspaper notes that coordination is under way between Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Syria and that the foreign ministers of these countries have met in Riyadh and Latakia, and will meet in Cairo on 1 December. The outcome of this coordination will be reflected in the Mubarak-Bush talks, particularly with regard to three important points, the paper says.

These points include the need to exhaust all the efforts aimed at reaching a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis, as well as persuading President Bush to postpone the use of the military option. The talks will also cover the way Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Syria visualize the security arrangements that should prevail in the region after the crisis ends, either by peace or by war, as well as the need to take speedy action to settle the Middle East problems as soon as the crisis ends. Chief among these problems is the Palestinian issue which should be resolved in the same way that Iraq's occupation of Kuwait has been dealt with.

AL-JUMHURIYAH notes that Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia are careful to open the door for a political settlement to the current conflict in a manner that safeguards the rights of all the parties. The paper notes that both President Mubarak and King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, are ready to provide any and all support necessary to start negotiations on a political settlement. Prior to such negotiations, however, Iraq should withdraw from Kuwait and the legitimate Kuwaiti Government should be restored to that country.

The three countries also visualize the possibility of providing protection to Iraq and Kuwait by deploying Arab forces as a buffer between the two countries as soon as the withdrawal begins. The three countries also perceive democratic changes in the Gulf countries in the coming phase, changes for which the current regimes in these countries are already preparing.

Mubarak Receives Cable of Thanks From 'Arafat

NC1811164390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has received the following cable from Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat:

Your Excellency, Brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak: Greetings. I appreciate receiving your brotherly cable of congratulations on the second anniversary of the declaration of independence of the state of Palestine. In my name and on behalf of our Arab Palestinian people and colleagues, the members of the PLO Executive Committee, I would like to express to Your Excellency, and through you to your dignified government and brotherly Egyptian people, our deep thanks and appreciation for your sincere brotherly congratulations.

Your support and the support of our Arab nation for the Palestinian peace initiative as well as for the declaration of independence of the state of Palestine have contributed to gaining momentum and world backing for them. We are certain that you will continue your support and backing for our just cause in order to achieve a just and lasting peace in our blessed Palestinian territories and in our region based on the resolutions of international legitimacy. These resolutions provide for our people's restoration of their inalienable national rights, including their rights of return, self-determination, and establishment of an independent state with its capital in Jerusalem.

In conclusion, I thank you and wish Your Excellency good health and happiness and the brotherly Egyptian people progress and prosperity. May peace and God's blessing be upon you.

[Signed] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee Chairman

Mubarak Receives Syrian Foreign Minister Al-Shar'

JN2011074090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo—Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' last night, who conveyed to him a message from President Hafiz al-Asad.

Al-Shar' arrived in Cairo earlier yesterday. He was received at the airport by Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Syrian Ambassador in Cairo Dr. 'Isa Darwish, the Syrian embassy staff, and senior Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials.

Al-Shar' met with 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. The Syrian ambassador in Cairo attended the meeting.

Following the meeting, al-Shar' made a statement to journalists in which he said that his visit to Cairo is within the framework of consultations and cooperation between Syria and Egypt, and that his talks with 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid were a follow up of the topics discussed by President Hafiz al-Asad and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak during his recent visit to Damascus.

Al-Shar' Meets 'Abd-al-Majid

NC2011113190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' left Cairo at noon today after a one-day visit to Egypt during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak. Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, held a two-hour meeting with the Syrian foreign minister this morning. They completed their discussion of issues of common concern, particularly the developments in the Gulf in light of the efforts being made to find a peaceful settlement to the Iraqi-Kuwaiti conflict.

Mubarak, Al-Asad Consult Over Gulf Developments

NC1911142090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak was telephoned today by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad during which the two presidents consulted on current developments in the Gulf crisis.

'Abd-al-Majid Reportedly Receives Death Threats

NC1511161190 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 12 Nov 90 p 12

[Text] As part of the wave of assassinations and threats to which political figures are subjected after the assassination of Egyptian People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub, Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has received four death threats in three days from various groups and organizations, some of which threatened to shoot him while others threatened to hurl bombs and incendiary explosives at his car and to harm his family. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid immediately informed the security authorities, which hastened to chart a new security plan to guard him. The team guarding him and his house has been changed, and a new team of three officers—a colonel, a lieutenant colonel, and a first lieutenant—has been appointed to guard him and his family members and to shroud his contacts and movements in complete secrecy.

In the meantime, Egyptian security organs in Port Sa'id and al-Fayyum have arrested some members of Egyptian terrorist groups who were carrying leaflets and lists of Egyptian figures they threaten to assassinate, including Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid and some important figures in the Egyptian Government.

'Abd-al-Majid Praises Iran's Release of Egyptians

NC1711135390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—In a statement today, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, described the release of a number of Egyptian captives as a positive step on the part of Iran. He expressed the hope that the remaining Egyptian captives will be released as well.

'Abd-al-Majid Receives Message From Qian Qichen

NC1711161790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received a message today from Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen. The message deals with the developments in the current Gulf crisis.

The message was relayed by the Chinese ambassador in Cairo during his meeting with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid today. During the meeting, the Chinese ambassador acquainted Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid with the outcome of Qian Qichen's recent Middle East tour during which he visited a number of countries including Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt. The two sides discussed the latest developments in the Gulf situation and the ongoing efforts to resolve the crisis in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

Reportage of Visit by Soviet Envoy Belonogov

Discusses Meeting With Mubarak

NC1611163490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov praised the outcome and atmosphere of today's talks with President Husni Mubarak.

He said the talks dealt with the Gulf situation and demonstrated the identical nature of the two countries' stands on solutions to the Gulf crisis.

In statements to MENA, he pointed out that the current situation in the Gulf is temporary and that the Soviet Union will continue its consultations with friends, particularly with Egypt.

He expressed the concern that Egypt and the Soviet Union have about the Gulf situation and said that the two countries support peaceful solutions to the crisis and are exerting all efforts to avert bloodshed.

He noted that the time factor does not favor Saddam Husayn, who must be convinced about the seriousness of the situation and who must respond to the will of the international community which opposes Iraq's annexation of Kuwait.

He remarked that the Soviet Union calls for a unified Arab position toward the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. He reiterated that his country supported and still supports the unification of Arab ranks and that it welcomes any measures toward this end.

He said that the Soviet Union feels that Saddam Husayn's reaction to Morocco's call for a summit and his setting preconditions for it render such a conference impossible, adding that Iraq can not be given the right to veto a conference. He said that any preconditions set by Iraq are unacceptable. He asserted that his country will continue its contacts with Iraq through the two countries' embassies.

He pointed out that his country opposes Iraq's annexation of Kuwait and considers it unacceptable and that the situation that prevailed before 2 August should be restored without Iraq attaining any privileges as a result of its aggression.

He said that the Soviet Union supports the Security Council's moves concerning the Gulf issue and the unified stand of the Security Council's permanent member states.

He emphasized that the detention of foreign nationals is unacceptable and called for the release of the hostages, foremost the Soviet nationals.

Concluding his statements, the Soviet official said he will leave for Saudi Arabia today as part of his current Arab tour.

'Abd-al-Majid on Meeting

NC1611164390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Following today's meeting with the Soviet president's envoy Aleksandr Belonogov, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said they reviewed the situation concerning the Gulf crisis and that the Soviet envoy understood Egypt's position.

'Abd-al-Majid added that he handed the Soviet envoy a copy of the joint communique released after President Husni Mubarak's talks with [Syrian] President Hafiz al-Asad.

He said he explained to the Soviet envoy that Moroccan King Hassan II's initiative calling for an Arab summit has been studied thoroughly, especially as the joint communique on the Egyptian and Syrian president's talks clarified the two countries' stands on this call.

Belonogov Visits Saudi Arabia

NC1711212990 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] Aleksandr Belonogov, Soviet deputy foreign minister and envoy of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, returned to Cairo from Saudi Arabia this evening.

Belonogov left Cairo on 16 November for Saudi Arabia where he conveyed a message from the Soviet president to Saudi King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Soviet Troops Not Likely in Gulf

NC1811152290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1448 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA)—Aleksandr Belonogov, Soviet deputy foreign minister and envoy of the Soviet leadership, has stressed that Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen are fully convinced of the need to restore the sovereignty of Kuwait as an independent state. There is also an understanding on the part of the three countries that the military solution could become inevitable, he added.

The envoy, who has visited the three countries on a mission dealing with the Gulf crisis, added that he had perceived increasing concern by the countries he visited over the prolongation of the crisis and the wasted time that could have been used for resolving the crisis peacefully.

Regarding the possible participation of Soviet troops in a military operation in the region, Belonogov said that things must proceed from reality. No Soviet military force could be sent outside the Soviet Union without the approval of the highest legislative body in the country. He added that he does not believe such approval is likely.

Belonogov Leaves for Damascus

NC1811130690 Paris AFP in English 1104 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, Nov 18 (AFP)—Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov left here Sunday for Damascus for an unscheduled visit to discuss Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and ways to reach a settlement in the Gulf crisis.

Mr. Belonogov has already been to Yemen and Saudi Arabia where on Saturday he delivered a message to King Fahd from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

After his talks in Jeddah with King Fahd the Soviet official had been expected to visit the United Arab Emirates (UAE) but instead returned to Cairo for more talks with Egyptian officials. Soviet diplomats here announced the visit to Syria but offered no explanation for the trip nor would they say why Mr. Belonogov failed to travel to the UAE. Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Syria lead the anti-Iraq coalition of Arab states that have been firmly calling for an unconditional Iraqi troop withdrawal from Kuwait.

Mr. Belonogov has met here with President Husni Mubarak and later said Iraq's three-month-old invasion of Kuwait and the annexation of the emirate was "unacceptable." He has also called for a return to the situation before Iraq's August 2 invasion of the emirate, saying Moscow was "making every effort to avoid the spilling of blood."

Another Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, Vladimir Petrovskiy, this week visited Morocco and Tunisia as part of a

regional tour that also includes Libya and Algeria to monitor the latest Arab position on the Gulf crisis.

These visits come as Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia have rejected a Moroccan call for an emergency Arab summit to find a solution to the crisis, saying Iraq should first pull out its troops from Kuwait.

Reportage on Visit by Canadian Defense Minister

Arrives in Cairo 17 Nov

NC1711211790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2038 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—Canadian Defense Minister William McKnight arrived in Cairo this afternoon at the head of a military delegation for an official two-day visit to Egypt.

During his stay, he will hold talks with General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, on ways to promote cooperation between Egypt and Canada in the military field and to exchange expertise. [passage omitted]

Military Talks Conducted

NC1811101190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0810 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA)—Egyptian-Canadian military talks were held in Cairo this morning. The Egyptians were led by General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, and the Canadians by Canadian Defense Minister William McKnight, who arrived in Cairo last night on a two-day visit. The two sides discussed ways of bolstering military cooperation and also reviewed the Gulf situation.

Major General Hasan Sulayman and Maj. Gen. Salah Halabi, assistants to the defense minister, and Maj. Gen. Hitler Tantawi, Defense Ministry secretary general, attended the talks on the Egyptian side. The Canadian team included the members of the Candian minister's delegation as well as Jacques Imard [name as received], Canada's ambassador to Cairo.

'Similar' Views Noted

NC1811114990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1008 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA)—Canadian Defense Minister William McKnight has said that his country is seeking to maintain world peace and to promote security in the Middle East. He said that Canada shares President Husni Mubarak's views concerning the need to make the Middle East a safer region.

In remarks following Egyptian-Canadian military talks, the Canadian defense minister answered a question about his country's views on resolving the Gulf crisis by saying: Our view of the solution is to a large extent similar to the Egyptian one. We believe in the need for intensive efforts to reach a diplomatic and peaceful solution. President Saddam Husayn ought to respond to UN, international, and Arab League resolutions. President Saddam should withdraw from Kuwait. He should listen to reason and restore the legitimate Government of Kuwait to that country.

Asked if Canada plans to increase the number of its troops in the Gulf area, the Canadian defense minister said that the troops already deployed there are capable of accomplishing their task. We are taking part, along with other forces, in the effort to repel the Iraqi aggression and implement UN resolutions.

Asked if Canada plans to cancel Egypt's military debts, McKnight said: We discussed that issue. The Canadian foreign minister will visit Egypt soon, and I think that this issue will be discussed then.

For his part, General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, underlined the need for cooperation between Egypt and Canada, noting that Canada participates in the peace-keeping Multinational Force and Observers in Sinai.

Asked about the prospects for increasing military cooperation between Egypt and Canada, Gen. Abu-Talib said that this cooperation will be increased after the discussion of military debts is completed.

Following the talks today, the Canadian defense minister visited the Tomb of the Unknown Solider in Nasr City and laid a floral wreath there. Staff Major General Mahmud Fu'ad, commander of the Central Military Zone, took part in that ceremony.

Holds News Conference

NC1811181690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA)—Canadian Defense Minister William McKnight has stated that his talks in Cairo showed him that the Egyptian leadership is determined to defend Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. He stressed that the Arab and Islamic countries are unanimous in their condemnation of Saddam Husayn's aggression against Kuwait and in calling for the need to restore the legitimate government there.

The Canadian minister made the above remarks in a news conference he held here today following his talks with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Defense Minister General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib. He added that Canada will work with the other countries to obtain a Security Council resolution allowing the use of force to get the Iraqi troops out of Kuwait should peaceful efforts fail to make Saddam Husayn pull his troops out from there and restore things there to what they were prior to 2 August.

The Canadian defense minister said the decision for war or peace depends on the behavior of Saddam Husayn, who must take the initiative of pulling his troops out of Kuwait so that he might avoid war. He added that Canada is cooperating with the United States over the Gulf crisis, noting that his country prefers that the allied front work under a unified command during the Gulf crisis.

He noted that since the beginning of the Gulf crisis, his country has sent three naval units to the region in addition to a squadron of CF-18 aircraft stationed in Qatar.

Yesterday afternoon the Canadian minister visited the Canadian contingent of the Multinational Force in Sinai. He is scheduled to leave Cairo for home this evening.

[At 1700 GMT on 18 November, Cairo MENA in English adds in a Cairo-datelined item, "Canadian Defence Minister William McKnight left here this afternoon following a two-day visit to Egypt."]

Explanation of Shamir's Territory Remarks Demanded

NC1911124290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—MENA has learned that Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has entrusted Ambassador Mustafa Hanafi, director of the Foreign Ministry's Israeli section, with the task of summoning Israel's ambassador in Cairo and demanding that he explain Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's recent remarks in which he said that Israel should retain control of the Arab territories for the sake of Jewish immigrants.

An Egyptian Foreign Ministry official spokesman stressed that Egypt rejects in part and parcel the Israeli prime minister's remarks which were circulated by news agencies. The spokesman said these remarks reveal Israel's tendency to expand and occupy other people's lands. He remarked that this will not help efforts to work out a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian issue.

The spokesman demanded that Israel be bound to the letter by the fourth Geneva convention on the status of the population of occupied territories. He urged the UN Security Council in particular, and the United Nations in general, to adopt the necessary measures to protect the Palestinian citizens.

The spokesman called for implementing the UN resolutions which prohibit changing the demographic nature of the occupied Palestinian territories in the West Bank and Gaza and the Syrian Golan Heights. [passage omitted]

Reaction to Shamir's Statements

JN1911183390 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Dispatch by Mustafa Bakri from Cairo]

[Text] The Egyptian Foreign Ministry summoned the Israeli ambassador in Cairo this morning. The head of the Israeli section at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry conveyed to him Egypt's severe protest against the statements made by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in which Shamir asserted the need to retain what he called Israel's land from the sea to the Jordan River for the sake of future generations, the great immigration, and the Jewish people.

The head of the Israeli section at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry asked the Israeli ambassador in Cairo to give an official and urgent explanation to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry of the purpose and content of the statements made by the Israeli prime minister.

Meanwhile, Cairo considered these statements as reflective of Israel's expansionist intentions and said they harm the peaceful efforts to establish peace in the region.

On the popular level, the Israeli prime minister's statements touched off anger and dismay among the Egyptian population. Opposition parties, associations, and unions denounced these statements which they considered new evidence of Israel's rejection of the policy of peace with the Arabs. Moreover, the Labor Party requested the Egyptian Government to adopt a firm position toward Israel. Rif'at al-Sa'id, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Nationalist Progressive Unionist Grouping, told our radio: I present the Shamir statement to those who have pinned great hopes on their peace with Israel and those who have wagered on a U.S. role being able to lead the Arabs to a peaceful settlement. I also present this statement to those who are talking about international legitimacy and are raising their voices calling for war against Iraq because it departed from international law, deliberately ignoring the role played by Israel.

'Ali-al-Din Salih, head of the Young Egypt Party, said there will be no peace with Israel so long as mentalities as Shamir's rule Israel. He called on the international community to take a decisive stand against the Israeli enemy, as he put it.

Fatah Examines Shamir Challenge

NC1911200490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1728 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative in Cairo, described Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's statements in which he demanded to keep the West Bank and Gaza to accommodate Jewish immigrants as a new challenge to the international community and its will which is demonstrated by the UN Charter and resolutions which underscore the inadmissibility of annexing others' territories by force.

In a statement he made today, the Palestinian official said this new challenge comes as Shamir and his government refuse to comply with UN resolutions on the Palestinian issue, particularly on the unacceptability of

annexing others' territories by force and on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. It also come when they have declined to receive a fact-finding team on Israeli crimes against the Palestinians.

Al-Qidrah added that Shamir depends entirely on the United States, which is rewarding the Israeli Government and financing the settlement operations in our occupied territories. It is also pouring in weapons and equipment worth more than $7 billion this year.

The Palestinian official asked the international community to take immediate measures to protect the Palestinian people and territories and demanded that the Security Council immediately take measures that could ensure protection of the Palestinian people and their legitimate rights, foremost being their right to establish an independent state.

Israeli Nuclear Weapons Declaration Examined

NC1711064190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2240 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—AL-AHRAM asserts that Israel's declaration, made by President Hayim Herzog, that it owns nuclear weapons raises a number of issues, primarily that the Israeli Administration had misled the international community and world public opinion when they insisted that Israel does not own nuclear weapons.

In its 17 November issue, the paper writes that in view of Israel's announcement that it owns such weapons, it is unacceptable to discuss the imposition of restrictions on the chemical weapons owned by certain Arab countries or on certain countries' efforts to find a suitable deterrent to Israeli-owned weapons.

AL-AHRAM adds that the Middle East situation has become very serious in view of the Israeli declaration. If Iraq's invasion of Kuwait had drawn a line between two different stages in the region's history, then the Israeli declaration might trigger grave problems and tension in the region if the international community and the Arab world do not address the issue properly.

In its editorial, AL-AHRAM writes that the Israeli declaration means that Israel has finally decided to depart from its former position of owned but undeclared nuclear weapons—the so-called bomb-in-the-vault strategy—to a new position of declaring the ownership of atomic [as received] weapons. Israel's ultimate goal is to achieve nuclear deterrence, both to prevent any party from contemplating an attack against it and to use this deterrence as a tool for imposing hegemony and control over the region.

The paper adds that all this indicates that Israel might use its conventional forces to mount aggressive acts, depending on its declared nuclear weapons to provide deterrence in crucial moments. All this, the paper writes, will create a serious source of tension in the stage to come.

AL-AHRAM concludes that this matter shows the significance of President Mubarak's call for removing weapons of mass destruction from the region under the UN's supervision. If nuclear and chemical weapons were removed from Israel and from any other countries which own them, then the Middle East pit of tension would be turned into a region of peace.

Israel's Role in Persian Gulf Crisis Examined

NC1911092290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—AL-AHRAM believes that it is wrong to assume that Israel has kept its distance from the Gulf crisis, either willingly or unwillingly. The paper adds that it is not true that Israel has let the entire world get involved in the Gulf crisis and warned against dragging it into the crisis.

In its editorial today, AL-AHRAM writes that the simplest argument says that as long as Israel is present in the region and is affected by its developments, it must play a role whether it likes it or not.

The official Israeli "leak" that Israel owns nuclear weapons, contrary to the long-standing official denial of that fact, confirms Israel's involvement in assessing the situation and indirectly shows that it will play a role in the war if it is subjected to an attack.

The paper concludes that the Israeli leak was coordinated with the recent U.S. escalatory measure, represented by U.S. President Bush's decision to send 200,000 more troops to Saudi Arabia, in spite of his assertions that he had not decided to go to war yet.

Saddam Message to President Bush Analyzed

JN1811174790

[Editorial Report] Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic on 16 November publishes on pages one and three an approximately 2,500-word article by Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi' on his recent visit to Tokyo and the Japanese Government's and people's attitude toward the Gulf crisis. He says two main topics were in the news during his stay in Tokyo: the Japanese Government's contribution to the multinational force in the Gulf, and former Prime Minister Nakasone's visit to Baghdad and the release of 74 Japanese hostages from Iraq.

Nafi' says: "There was then talk about the price that Japan has promised to pay Iraq for releasing these hostages. While in Tokyo, I actually heard that Japan had asked Switzerland to send medicine to Iraq and that Japan would foot the bill. A senior Japanese journalist told me that the Iraqi president had asked Nakasone to convey a very important message to U.S. President George Bush when Nakasone visits the United States next week. The message says that Saddam Husayn's popularity dropped to a record low following the end of the war with Iran, and when he was faced with extremely difficult economic conditions that made him unable to

compensate the Iraqi people for the suffering they endured during the war years, he invaded Kuwait to give the Iraqi people hope in prosperity, well being, and the end of suffering. Therefore, Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait without in any way achieving a gain from the invasion clearly means political suicide for him, or his elimination and that of his family. If pressure on him continues in order to deprive him of these gains, or some of them, he will choose military action regardless of the grave consequences on his people because he himself has no other option except to die with his family or to commit political suicide, and both are bitter options for Saddam. Nakasone will visit the United States with the message for the U.S. President. He will attend a meeting in the United States in which former Presidents Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford and other American and international figures will participate. The conferees will discuss the most suitable solution to resolve the Gulf crisis: Will it be war or peaceful means to the very end?"

'Fast Approaching' Military Option in Gulf Viewed

NC1711084190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 17 Nov 90

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-JUMHURIYAH writes in one of its articles that the decision to go to war is difficult and serious for all parties, and that the only person who is hastening this decision is Saddam Husayn, as evidenced by his rejection of all the proposals, offers, and ideas.

While declaring that the only hope left is for an Arab solution or meeting, when Moroccan King Hassan II called for a summit, Saddam put forward conditions that are impossible to meet. In addition, Saddam is leveling accusations against anyone opposed to his policies.

The paper points out that the entire international community is unanimious in its decision not to compensate him for his aggression, and consequently not to talk to him unless he first withdraws from Kuwait.

Under the title "The Specter of War and the Continuation of the Peace Efforts," AL-AHRAM writes in the "Opinion" column that sincere Arab efforts continue to be exerted to avert a military confrontation in the Gulf, which many see as fast approaching. These efforts are based on the need not to allow the aggressor to be rewarded for his aggression. First, Iraqi troops must withdraw from all the Kuwaiti territories and the legitimate government must return to the country, and then negotiations could start to resolve any disputes.

For that purpose, President Husni Mubarak continues his Arab tours—as part of his policy of direct contacts, continued dialogue, and frankness—to meet with the Arab leaders to find a common formula of understanding on the international issues. Hence came the principled stand expressed by Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad in their news statement which noted that the Iraqi conditions rendered the holding of the proposed summit impossible.

The paper concludes by saying that the Arab and international public opinion is waiting with great interest to see whether the sincere call for peace—led by Egypt with its history, culture, and standing—will triumph, or whether the region will slide toward the military option which is beginning to cast its shadow over the region.

International Calls for Arab Summit Criticized

NC1911064890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2152 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR has criticized the oft-repeated calls by a number of world leaders to convene an Arab summit to resolve the Gulf crisis. The last one to make such a call was UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. The paper points out that such a summit was held in Cairo and that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn rejected this summit's resolutions. Recently, he also rejected Morocco's call for convening an extraordinary Arab summit.

In its Monday edition commentary, the paper says that such repeated calls, which are made under the premise of giving the Iraqi president a last chance to withdraw from Kuwait, give the impression that the Gulf crisis—which has evolved into an international crisis—has become an internal crisis and that it is the Arabs' duty to resolve it. The paper adds: It stands to reason that President Husni Mubarak called for an Arab summit. The summit was held and Saddam Husayn rejected its resolutions. Iraq also rejected the call made by Moroccan King Hassan II to convene an extraordinary Arab summit under the pretext that Morocco has laid preconditions for convening the summit.

Concluding its commentary, the paper notes that following the failure of all peaceful attempts to persuade Iraq to resolve the crisis peacefully and withdraw from Kuwait, the continuation of the Gulf crisis in a no-war, no-peace state threatens the international community with collapse and the Kuwaiti crisis with becoming one of the unresolved international issues.

Algeria's Position Questioned

NC1811082690 Cairo MENA in English 0735 GMT 18 Nov 90

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA)—[passage omitted] AL-AHRAM reported the strange position announced by the Algerian foreign minister who attacked the results of the Cairo summit conference despite his country's commitment thereto. In this connection, AL-AHRAM wondered whether Algeria was supporting the return of the legitimacy to Kuwait or not, as he described the Cairo summit as being "a trap" The paper further indicated that King Husayn of Jordan, now the close friend of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, has been very

careful not to make that gross error made by the Algerian foreign minister. [passage omitted]

UAE Official Views Gulf Radio Transmissions

NC1811203790 Cairo MENA in English 1912 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, Nov 18 (MENA)—Infomation Minister Safwat al-Sharif received today visiting United Arab Emirates' information undersecretary, Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nuwaysi, who doubles also as editor-in-chief of AL-ITTIHAD newspaper.

Al-Nuwaysi is currently on an official visit here at the invitation of the Ministry of Information and within the framework of information cooperation between the two countries.

Al-Sharif said the UAE devoted one of its medium waves to transmit Egyptian programmes to the Gulf area over 24 hours daily.

This came upon UAE head of state, Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan's instructions during President Husni Mubarak's visit to Abu Dhabi within his recent tour of the Gulf area, al-Sharif said.

Trade Union Official To Discuss Refugees' Jobs

NC1811202990 Cairo MENA in English 1908 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, Nov 18 (MENA)—The secretary general of the Free International Trade Unions Federation arrived here tonight on a three day visit to Egypt.

He is due to hold talks with Ahmad al-'Amawi, chairman of the Egyptian Trade Unions Federation, on the possibility of the international federations's extending assistance and providing job opportunities to Egyptian manpower returning from Iraq and Kuwait.

'Abd-al-Majid Receives Kuwaiti Cabinet Minister

NC1911163390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1342 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, held talks today with Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Awadi, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs. The talks focused on the latest developments in the Gulf crisis.

Following the talks, al-'Awadi emphasized the need for constant consultations and coordination between Egypt and Kuwait. He stressed that Egypt and Kuwait hold identical views and that there is no disagreement between them whatsoever. He added that the consultations between the two countries are considered positive steps for arriving at a solution for the Gulf crisis, to liberate Kuwaiti territory, and to restore the legitimate government there.

The talks were attended by Kuwaiti Ambassador in Cairo 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Kandari.

Saddam's 'Maneuver' Over Hostages Discussed

NC2011122790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Commentary by Bahiy-al-Din Shu'ayb: "A New and Futile Iraqi Maneuver"]

[Text] Saddam Husayn is doing all he can to maneuver over the Gulf crisis. In the past few weeks he has used the foreign hostages detained by Iraq as bargaining chips in his efforts to prolong the current climate of uneasy peace. This one-upmanship over the hostages began when Saddam tried to play this card piecemeal and released citizens of various countries separately after holding contacts, striking bargains, and mounting a propanganda campaign.

Undoubtedly, these actions have attracted the full attention of the media and elicited statements from officials who both support or oppose such bargaining. Iraq released some hundreds of hostages amid this media clamor, but this process failed to achieve the political gains Saddam had hoped for. World public opinion is still bitterly critical of the foreigners' detention in Iraq and believes that Saddam is exploiting innocent people who have nothing to do with his plots and aggression in an attempt to blackmail the international front that is opposing his aggression against Kuwait. Nor have the senior officials who went and talked with Saddam succeeded in winning over any of their countrymen to Saddam's side even though he released their brothers. These officials, who played this game more to serve their own partisan interests than the interests of Saddam, returned home with some released hostages but were not greeted with the desired welcome that would have brought them closer to their countries' inner political circles.

As events are moving more quickly than he likes and as patience is becoming exhausted, Saddam Husayn was thus forced to reconsider. He then came up with a new maneuver to improve his image before the world: the idea of releasing all foreign hostages who have been detained in Iraq since its invasion of Kuwait. Following a lengthy meeting with the Iraqi Revolution Command Council, Saddam Husayn declared that the release of these hostages will start on 25 December, the Christian religious holiday of Christmas. It seems that Saddam wants to exploit this religious occasion to gain the approval of the world as it celebrates and hopes that appeals by families who have had some members released will reach their rulers, thus easing the pressure on him. The Iraqi decision also said that the release of the hostages was taken to show goodwill and a desire for dialogue, that the release of the hostages will be completed by 25 March 1991, and that the entire process depends on nothing happening to disturb the atmosphere of peace.

Saddam Husayn may hope to gain several months to catch his breath, organize his ranks, and finetune his plots and maneuvers, but the measures he is taking to deal with an explosive crisis are some kind of political idiocy because more than 25 countries have dispatched their forces to the deserts and seas of the Gulf region since the invasion of Kuwait. These forces were sent there not to hunt rats in sand dunes, but to carry out a specific mission in accordance with the Security Council resolutions which demand the Iraqi forces' withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of the status quo ante. Giving Saddam three or four months to reassess his calculations does not mean that these forces will return to their bases just because Saddam Husayn has deigned to announce that he will release the foreign hostages he is holding between next month and the end of March.

What Saddam must bear in mind is that the issue is not one of the release of the hostages. The hostages appeared on the scene only after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and are merely on the periphery of the crisis. Saddam may want to turn them into a pivotal issue between him and all the other countries, but no one will play this game with him. Nor will anyone allow him to set the timetable for international action to confront the Iraqi aggression. The invasion of Kuwait is the issue between the world and Saddam. The world only wants Iraq to declare that it will withdraw from Kuwait. If it does this, that will be the end of the matter; the dangers of a confrontation will disappear, and the world will begin considering new arrangements to protect the security of all countries in the Gulf, including Iraq.

Through his maneuvering and his belief that he can outwit the more than 25 countries united against his aggression, Saddam has only thrown the lives of the Iraqi people into the pot without having good cards in his hand.

Iraq's Overtures, Face-Saving Attempts Criticized

NC2011093590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 20 Nov (MENA)—AL-AHRAM has described the quasi-solutions periodically coming from Iraq as trial balloons designed to test the unity of the international community's will that calls for the expulsion of Iraq from Kuwait either by peace or by war. In an editorial today, the paper emphasized that Iraq must withdraw all its forces as an advance indication that it will leave all of Kuwait to allow for the legitimate government's restoration.

AL-AHRAM sternly criticizes those who call for the possibility of reaching "understanding" with Iraq on a certain solution that would allow President Saddam Husayn to "save face." The paper notes that these voices are only demanding that the Iraqi regime "pledge" to start withdrawing in return for starting negotiations. These formulas, the paper maintains, had already been put forward and those who propose them disregard the fact that they run counter to the Security Council resolutions. The paper expressed its regret over Iraq's violent response to Morocco's call for convening an emergency Arab summit to discuss the Gulf crisis, and held Iraq responsible for aborting this call.

Iraq's Allies Denounced for 'Distorted Stories'

NC2011095090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0621 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 20 Nov (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR denounces the lies and distorted stories coming these days from the Baghdad ruler's allies, led by the king of Jordan, against those who revealed their realism before the Arab world and world public opinion. In an editorial today, the paper says that Saddam's agents perpetrate the greater part of these lies against Egypt and its president, as if Egypt were the country that attacked Kuwait, plundered its wealth, displaced its people, fragmented the Arab ranks, harmed the Palestinian cause, and besmirched the Arab nation's reputation.

AL-AKHBAR states that it is shameful indeed that the civilized world, for the first time in history united against an aggression toward a small state, should see this disgraceful stand endorsed by a few Arab leaders who are assailing a sisterly country whose favors they had all sought, whose praises they had sung, and whose help they had requested before the Iraqi ruler committed his heinous crime. This is particularly true when the handful of leaders who participate in the conspiracy allege that they want an Arab solution to save their leader from his severe predicament and inevitable fate.

Egypt To Receive Modern U.S. Military Equipment

NC1611223290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—The weekly AKHBAR AL-YAWM reports in its 17 November issue that Egypt will obtain sophisticated weapons and military equipment from the United States at symbolic prices, representing only the transport cost.

According to the paper, the equipment is part of surplus American weapons which are being discarded after the detente between the United States and the Soviet Union. The weapons are very modern and include F-16 airplanes, M-60 tanks, M-113 armored cars, artillery pieces, and many other pieces of equipment.

The paper adds that some Congress members suggested an amendment in the American foreign aid project which provides for giving special treatement to Turkey and Israel and for excluding other friendly, non-allied states which are getting aid from elsewhere. This amendment would have meant Egypt's exclusion from this privilege. However, the Egyptian working team—led by Assistant to the President Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Abu-Ghazalah and former Egyptian Ambassador to Washington Ashraf Ghurbal—succeeded in averting that

amendment and in securing the implementation of an agreement between the Egyptian and U.S. defense ministers in 1986-87 to grant Egypt the same treatment.

AKHBAR AL-YAWM notes that the equipment will not be part of the U.S. military assistance program to Egypt which amounts to $ 1.3 billion per year.

'Informed' Sources Say U.S. Demands Rejected

JN1811181690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Dispatch by Mustafa Bakri from Cairo]

[Text] It has been learned from informed Egyptian sources that Cairo has communicated to the U.S. Administration that it rejects some of the demands presented by the U.S. ambassador during his meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid yesterday. The U.S. ambassador had asked Egypt to give a final reply to certain military demands related to cooperation and coordination between the Arab and American forces upon the outbreak of hostilities in the Gulf. These demands included limited military facilities for the U.S. and other international forces. They also called for an increase in the number of the Egyptian forces in order to secure effective participation in the ground combat plan. Egypt gave the U.S. ambassador a clear reply consisting of several points, including:

1. The Egyptian forces' coordination is basically with the Saudi and other Arab forces.

2. The participating Egyptian forces' aim is defensive, and is linked to the security of Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states upon the outbreak of hostilities in the Gulf.

3. Egypt refuses to grant facilities on its territory unless they are linked with the role of Egyptian and other Arab forces upon the start of military operations.

Egypt stressed to the U.S. Administration that it wanted to postpone discussion of the military option so that talks during President Bush's visit to Cairo on Thursday would focus on the ways to resolve the crisis peacefully.

Wafd Party's Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din Interviewed

PM2011113090 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 15 Nov 90 p 3

[interview with Wafd Party leader Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din by Jamal Badawi; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Badawi] A few days ago the Wafd Party decided to boycott the elections in solidarity with the opposition parties, and a few days later it decided to cancel Jihad Day celebrations. Does this mean that the party is adopting a new policy of confrontation?

[Siraj-al-Din] Yes, it is a new policy, a policy of confronting any attack on public freedom and of not forfeiting any constitutional or legitimate rights. The Wafd and all the other parties must have a position on any conflicts with the Constitution or public freedoms. Article 54 of the Constitution stipulates that meetings can be held freely within the bounds of the law. We will adopt the same resolute position on any matters relating to the Constitution or the law.

[Badawi] Let us return to the boycott decision. Some have said that the decision was made because of Wafd's fear of the election battle and the lack of candidates.

[Siraj-al-Din] This was said by supporters of the present regime. It is an utter lie. The proof of this is that two or three years ago, in the 1987 elections, we fielded over 1,000 candidates on the original and reserve lists. A shortage of one candidate would have annulled the list. Now we are being asked to field just 444 candidates!! As for the claim that we are evading the political scene and the masses, the answer is simple: If the present regime accuses us of unpopularity, of being weak on the political scene, and of being afraid to face the masses, why does it not agree to the required guarantees in order to nullify our arguments and expose us before the public. But the present regime has rejected reasonable and constitutional guarantees, so it fears an election battle without having the opportunity to rig it. If it is sure of itself and of its presence on the political scene, and if it is confident that the Wafd has no candidates and is not popular enough, it should nullify our arguments and agree to the required guarantees.

[Badawi] Do you expect any rigging in the next elections?

[Siraj-al-Din] I believe that the next elections will be the least rigged. I expect very limited rigging against independent candidates. This is because most candidates are either official National Democratic Party [NDP] candidates or NDP members who decided to contest the elections after splitting from the party. So the battle is between two teams: a main team and a reserve team, and both represent one club—the NDP. Whichever wins—the main candidate or the dissident, reserve candidate—the result will be in the NDP's favor, thus there is no need for rigging. [passage omitted]

[Badawi] Some believe that if some of the dissidents dismissed from the Wafd win, they can speak on the Wafd's behalf in the People's Assembly.

[Siraj-al-Din] That is unacceptable, both legislatively and legally. None of the dissidents can violate the party's decision inside the assembly. This is obvious and well known.

[Badawi] How do you explain the dismissal decision, which is a firm decision, in the light of the claims and rumors portraying the opposition parties—and especially the Wafd—as weak, as having no substance, and so forth?

[Siraj-al-Din] This very decision is proof of the party's strength and commitment to its decisions. If the party had been weak, it would not have thought about such tough penalties. The Wafd exists on the political scene from Aswan to Alexandria, and the fact that 39 members

deviated from its decision does not in any way indicate that the party is weak. The weak one is the NDP, which has been unable to make a decision with regard to its dissidents. [passage omitted]

[Badawi] What is the remedy?

[Siraj-al-Din] The remedy is political reform. We must have a democratic method that strengthens the people's powers and limits the rulers' powers. Legislative life should be governed by this method, and the people should choose their real representatives through free and impartial elections. Then the people will be able to rule themselves and establish a legislative council representing the nation and a sound democratic constitution. As for what we have now, it is no more than slogans and cosmetics. [passage omitted]

[Badawi] Do you expect armed opposition to the regime to increase because of the frustration which the people will feel because they lack real representatives in the People's Assembly?

[Siraj-al-Din] Relinquishing any of the people's rights will have a negative impact on the masses' feelings and will encourage some of the extremist, outraged, or angry elements to commit illegal acts. Democracy is the protection against such sabotage actions, but unfortunately the present regime does not realize or understand this.

Minister 'Ubayd Discusses Paris Club Meeting

NC1611080190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Paris, 15 Nov (MENA)—Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, Cabinet affairs minister and minister of state for administrative development, stated that at the Paris Club meeting today the Egyptian delegation discussed with the creditor nations' representatives the best way to reduce Egypt's debt burden. The meeting also discussed the various programs and aid that could be offered to reduce the debt burden, and each country would choose what best suits it by agreeing first on the volume to be reduced and then on the means to reduce it.

In a statement he made following the Paris talks today, Dr. 'Ubayd said that this would definitely lead to a visible reduction in Egypt's debt burden and, consequently, would have a visible impact on the balance of payments. He added that the creditor nations will be guided by the agreements reached with the Arabs, the United States, the East European nations, and the Soviet Union, and by the British Government's declaration on the poor countries, the Netherlands' declaration, and President Mitterrand's declaration in Houston. He noted that the creditor nations will take all of the above into consideration. He said: This reduction in the debt burden is basic and extremely important to us. What each country would do within this framework would be within specified limits.

Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd said that the creditor nations' representatives stressed their nations' desire to help Egypt. They also stressed the importance of Egypt, its position and stability, and said that they must actively participate in continuing this stability and enable Egypt to reduce its debt burden. He added that all the countries insist that Egypt is in a unique position and must receive special treatment as a result of its role in achieving stability in the Middle East. In this respect he praised the role played by (Jean Claude Tarshais), the French Paris Club chairman. He also praised the leading U.S. role.

The Egyptian minister expressed satisfaction with what was achieved. He said: The talks were successful. A period during the month of December has been set for each country to prepare the formula that best suits its circumstances. He noted that this is a short period of time because of the December holidays. He said that there is great interest in and appreciation for Egypt.

He noted that these countries will reduce Egypt's debts according to the amount it can pay. He said that the IMF and the World Bank have defined what we can pay and that the technical department has explained that Egypt can pay "so much" a year.

Dr. 'Ubayd said that tomorrow's meeting will wrap up today's meeting and will be attended by the Arabs, in addition to some countries to whom Egypt is not indebted but who could possibly help Egypt. He noted that Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait will attend too, adding that the Kuwaiti finance minister specifically will attend tomorrow's meeting.

Islamist 'Leader' Denies Role in Al-Mahjub Murder

JN1911140390 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Nov 90 p 6

[Report by 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad]

[Excerpts] Last week, al-Fayyum Governorate saw a major sweep of members of the Islamic group suspected of involvement in the murder of Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub, former speaker of the People's Assembly. Security forces rounded up scores of people and drove them to al-Gharb Prison in al-Fayyum as well as Zaqaziq, Istiqbal Turrah, Ladhughli, and Jabir Bin-Hayyan Prisons in al-Jizah where they were beaten up and otherwise tortured with electric shock. In the meantime, hundreds of houses in al-Fayyum were raided with officers wrecking furniture; manhandling women, the elderly, and children; and arresting fugitives' relations as hostages to blackmail them into surrendering themselves. [passage omitted]

AL-SHA'B has interviewed a leader of the Islamists in al-Fayyum, who began by asserting that the Islamist group was framed for the al-Mahjub murder to cover the failure of the police to catch the real culprits. Most of those caught had been on the run for months, and their roundup provided a scapegoat for the retention of 'Abd-al-Halim Musa in the Cabinet.

[Muhammad] But you have a vested interest in the assassination of al-Mahjub, inasmuch as it was the Interior Ministry that murdered 'Ala' Muhyi-al-Din.

[Answer] We have no interest in al-Mahjub's assassination. Let me ask you why the eyewitnesses to the murder have not come forward. We never wanted to kill al-Mahjub since our hostility is toward the regime.

[Muhammad] But the murder of al-Mahjub was a message to the regime?

[Answer] The al-Mahjub operation was a demanding affair that required a high level of precision, skill, and resources. Even the explosives used are not of the kind available in Egypt. Besides, the taxi driver stated that one of the killers spoke in an Arab rather than an Egyptian accent.

[Muhammad] But you have carried out highly skilled operations like the 1981 assassination of al-Sadat.

[Answer] That was a special case since all the elements came from the Armed Forces.

[Muhammad] But you have received combat training in Afghanistan.

[Answer] None of those arrested have ever been to Afghanistan. Most have been detained more than ten times each. The interior minister is out to clear his name following the deterioration of the security situation. He wants to prove to the regime that he has succeeded. More than ninety martyrs of our number have fallen in the era of Zaki Badr and 'Abd-al-Halim Musa.

[Muhammad] What are your demands?

[Answer] We have no personal demands. There can be no understanding or compromise with this regime. Either the sharia is applied or we die advancing this cause.

[Muhammad] But the regime is liquidating you, and then your cause will fold.

[Answer] Our cause stands and the regime fears it for its constance and clarity of purpose. Never in the history has a messenger been spared harm in the pursuit of his cause. Indeed, we take comfort from our ordeals. I assure you that the threats of the interior minister are hollow. He will not be able to arrest our call, nor will he manage to stop the people from rallying behind us. Their evil policies will backfire. We would cite the fates of tyrants al-Sadat, the shah of Iran, and Romania's Ceausescu. We are sending a grim message to the regime to refrain from assassinating the members of the group. But I assure you, we were not behind the murder of al-Mahjub.

Libya

Government Reportedly Expels Sabri Al-Banna

NC1711190290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1812 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] Tunis, 17 Nov (MENA)—Quoting Palestinian sources, the Tunisian newspaper AKHBAR AL-JUMHURIYAH reports today that Libyan authorities have recently expelled Abu-Nidal (Sabri al-Banna).

The Libyan authorities had previously closed down the offices of the Palestine Liberation Front led by Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas].

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives USSR's Petrovskiy

LD1911095290 Tripoli JANA in English 0818 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth [November] 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution received Mr. V. Petroviskiy, vice-minister of foreign affairs in the Soviet Union. Mr. Petrovskiy conveyed to the leader of the revolution a letter from the Soviet president on the Kuwaiti crisis.

Envoy Comments on Meeting

LD1911215290 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1850 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Nov (JANA)—Vladimir Petrovskiy, the Soviet deputy foreign minister and special envoy of Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev to the brother leader of the revolution, left Tripoli at the end of a brief visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

The Soviet envoy made a statement to JANA [JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY] in which he said that he was asked to visit the Great Jamahiriyah by Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev to hold talks with the leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and to exchange views with him on finding a solution to the Kuwaiti crisis.

He added: We met with full understanding in our analysis and evaluation of the situation in the region, which is characterized by danger. He pointed out there is still an opportunity to reach a peaceful solution to the crisis. He added that the USSR strongly supports the convocation of an Arab meeting so that the Arabs could solve the problem by themselves. He said that the revolutionary leadership in the Great Jamahiriyah shares our views in this regard.

Petrovskiy affirmed his country's anxiousness to see the Kuwait crisis resolved peacefully, in accordance with the UN resolutions. We in the USSR, he said, are convinced that the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions will open the way for the discussion and solution of the other pending problems in the region, and for laying down new edifices for security and stability in the Middle East.

In conclusion the Soviet envoy expressed his great admiration for the comprehensive renaissance and changes made in the Great Jamahiriyah, as well as the unique progress achieved by the Libyan Arab people in the various fields of life, thanks to the great first of September revolution.

He said: I have read much and heard much about your country. But this time, having had the opportunity to visit the Great Jamahiriyah, I feel greatly impressed by the great progress I have seen in the Great Jamahiriyah, which acts as a symbol of man's endeavors in the field of development and in overcoming backwardness.

Al-Qadhdhafi on Inter-Arab Relations

JN1711190990 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Surt, Libya]

[Text] Leader of the Libyan revolution Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has stated that, during their recent meeting, he and President Mubarak discussed the possibility of holding a mini-Arab summit among the parties concerned with the Gulf problem. The mini-summit would precede the extraordinary Arab summit called for by Moroccan King Hassan II.

In an exclusive interview with al-Qadhdhafi in Surt, Libya, the Libyan leader told me that President Mubarak approved the idea and said that the extraordinary summit should not be rushed so that it will not end in failure, and that an agreement is necessary among the parties to the dispute before the summit is convened.

Al-Qadhdhafi expressed his country's support for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis but said that delaying the Kuwait problem also delays the withdrawal of the foreign forces from the region. He said that those who want these forces to leave the Gulf must find a way out of the Kuwaiti crisis.

The leader of the Libyan revolution called for immediate unity from Syria, to Yemen, to the Arab Maghreb with the aim of filling the vacuum in the face of the American forces when they attempt to enter these areas if war breaks out in the Gulf, as he put it.

Asked to speculate on the coming scenario of the Gulf crisis, al-Qadhdhafi said: Sometimes, my analysis indicates that a scenario for this problem has already been planned and needs only a production. However, he said, the issue may be different, and that events in the Gulf followed one another with the result that the region found itself in such a situation.

Al-Qadhdhafi told me that he tried to rescue the region and the world from the current impasse through his own initiative in which he demanded a peaceful solution based on simultaneous withdrawals of Iraqi and foreign forces from the region. He said that any peaceful solution would not deviate from the Libyan initiative, which would be a face-saving one for everyone.

In his statement to our radio, al-Qadhdhafi criticized the U.S. role and said that America was trying to exploit the problem of Kuwait and to replace the United Nations. He said he held contacts with the UN secretary general in which he stressed Libya's position on this issue. He said he demanded that U.S. President George Bush stop interfering in Arabs' internal affairs and playing the role of policeman in the region.

Al-Qadhdhafi launched a fierce attack on U.S. policy in many areas of the world and expected that what he called the U.S. empire and the capitalist camp would fall at the hands of the workers and wage earners.

In his statement, al-Qadhdhafi praised the sovereignty of the regime of the masses in Sudan and said that this will bring closer the comprehensive unity between the two countries.

On Ethiopia's fears about this unity, al-Qadhdhafi told me: I only recognize the Arab state of Abyssinia and nothing else. He said the Ethiopian regime is serving Israel's interests and he revealed an Israeli plan to control the sources of the Nile in order to destroy them in the event of war between Egypt and Israel.

Asked about his concept for solving the problem of southern Sudan in light of his special ties with Sudan, al-Qadhdhafi said: The popular regime will solve the problems of the minority and will free the people from tyranny, exploitation, and the dominance of one nationality over another. Therefore, the problem of the south will find a solution under this regime.

On his position regarding the return of the Arab League to Egypt, al-Qadhdhafi said the decision is legal and legitimate and that it is unreasonable to discuss this decision once again.

In his statement, al-Qadhdhafi strongly criticized Israeli policy in the occupied territory and called on the Palestinian people to continue their brave intifadah, considering that there can be no peace between the Arabs and Israel except when the Hebrew state is gone and a democratic Palestinian state, encompassing everyone—Arabs and Jews—is established.

In conclusion, al-Qadhdhafi denied that his country has anything to do with the current events in Chad, saying that what is going on is a tribal struggle that will not end unless a regime of the masses is established in that country and French forces are withdrawn from Chadian territory.

Mauritania

Official Denies Aiding Casamance Separatists

AB1811113290 Paris AFP in French 2003 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] Nouakchott, 17 Nov (AFP)—"Mauritania has never helped the Casamance separatist movement" in

the latter's struggle against the Senegalese regime. This was stated by an official source in Nouakchott today. According to the Mauritanian minister of information, "rumors implicating Nouakchott in the activities" of the Casamance separatists "are completely unfounded."

This announcement, which was not in response to any recent accusation, is seen by observers in the region as demonstrating a desire by Mauritania to calm things down in the conflict between it and Senegal since April 1989. According to Dakar, which has been caught up in agitation for independence in the southern region which has caused about 100 deaths over the past six months, Mauritania and Guinea-Bissau might have been the principal supporters of the rebellion, either through active help in the supply of weapons, or through passive complicity by providing "sanctuaries" for the Casamance activists.

Mauritania had declared on several occasions during the hottest periods of its conflict with Senegal that it "is capable" of causing internal problems in Senegal.

Minister Denies Presence of Iraqi Missiles

JN1611154590 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 14 Nov 90 p 4

[Interview with Hasni Ould Didi, Mauritanian Minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, by Mahmud Ma'ruf in Rabat; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Ma'ruf] Where does Mauritania stand now on what is happening in the Arab homeland?

[Didi] There is no doubt that Mauritania, the southern gate of the Arab homeland, is concerned about what is happening now in the Arab arena in view of the relations of cordiality and solidarity that link it to all Arab countries. The Arab nation has been living for a long time with the worries of a crucial cause—the question of Palestine. [passage omitted]

The more important issue these days, however, is what is happening in the Arabian Gulf region. We in Mauritania, from the very beginning took a principled stand, namely, that resorting to violence to resolve problems between brothers is rejected, irrespective of the rights or credibility of any party concerned, and that the annexation of any country by force is contrary to the laws governing inter-Arab or international relations, whether those of the Arab League or United Nations Charter. [passage omitted]

What guarantees continuity and salvation is the Arab solution. The presence of foreign troops is justified from a legal and legitimate point of view (within the framework of the United Nations and upon the request of sovereign states). From the perspective of Arab endeavors and interests, however, these forces affect Arab sovereignty and solidarity, and even the future of the region.

While Mauritania respects international principles and laws, and while it maintains a neutral position in the conflicts between the brothers, it is always willing to do anything it can to contain issues within their Arab sphere and framework to reach a satisfactory settlement through which everyone gets their rights. We have relations of cordiality and friendship with the brothers in Iraq, which will continue on various official and popular levels because Iraq never failed in the past to perform its pan-Arab duties towards Mauritania when our security was threatened. It was the only country that responded to our call, although we had reaffirmed our commitment not to carry out aggression on others, when other Arab countries refused to provide any support for us to defend our security, land, and people, and protect our right to defend ourselves.

[Ma'ruf] Despite your claims of neutrality, you have been subjected to media campaigns.

[Didi] Yes. We have been subjected to campaigns in some newspapers and statements by some officials; we are above responding to them. We have been accused of supporting Iraq's annexation of Kuwait. Our stands are clear and are recorded at the Arab League in the minutes of the Arab League Council meetings or the summit. We called at all times for an Arab initiative before resorting to any new condemnation resolutions because there were many condemnation resolutions.

What we have been and are being subjected to by others does not stem from our position on the Gulf crisis. It stems from others' prejudices and private account settling. We told anyone who asked us what our stand was that we are a bedouin society that can live in the harshness of the desert and that when it comes to crucial Arab issues, we cannot compromise our principles. We do not care about the material aspect, aid or the like. These are all trivialities and our Arab dignity is much more important.

[Ma'ruf] This means that there are threats to halt aid?

[Didi] No, no Arab country has told us anything about stopping aid. Of course, you have to realize that the new situation led to some complications, and the crisis is still in the beginning.

[Ma'ruf] If war breaks out, how will you react?

[Didi] We hope that war will not take place because all the losses will be Arab—in terms of people, wealth, and land. We are against war, and against a recourse to force and violence. We oppose destroying the Iraqi people and power, because we are certain that the Iraqi Government always has in mind the interests of the Arab nation, and its power is that of the Arabs. In fact, Iraq does not have the right to use its power in any way it wants; Iraq must maintain this power and we must protect it.

[Ma'ruf] There has been much talk about Iraqi missiles on Mauritanian territory.

[Didi] These are all lies and tendentious propaganda disseminated by the enemies of the Arab nation, particularly the enemies of Mauritania and Iraq, because Mauritania, the southern gate of the Arab homeland, bears a civilized Islamic message, and has many enemies who are attempting to threaten its existence because it is committed to this message, which was spread by our forefathers, whether on camel or on foot.

[Ma'ruf] But what is the story of the missiles?

[Didi] You remember when Iraq launched the al-Husayn missile, hostile quarters began to wonder how Iraq succeeded in conducting experiments on launching this missile. In a study conducted by an American newspaper, moreover, it was said that Iraq was in dire need of experimental ground, and that the land suitable for such experiments was available in Mauritania and Sudan because they have wide expanses. The study indicated possibilities. Hostile quarters, however, considered these possibilities as definite and certain, and told Western quarters that there were Iraqi missiles in Mauritania.

[Ma'ruf] Senegal says that the presence of these missiles in Mauritania threatens its sovereignty.

[Didi] We do not need missiles to reply to any Senegalese attack. For Dakar is not far away from Mauritania. We are now putting up with daily attacks from Senegal on Mauritanian land through the borders, and we are not replying to these so as to maintain hope that peace and calm can be established in the area.

The United States, Senegal's ally, has ways and documents that can verify the presence of Iraqi missiles on our land. And up until now, the United States has not said anything about the presence of such missiles. [passage omitted]

Morocco

Hassan Says Need for Arab Summit 'Imperative'

LD1911233190 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Excerpts] To appease our conscience and to be able to face the future without bitterness or the trace of a crime, we, the leaders of Arab countries, ought to make an effort. In this way His Majesty King Hassan II reaffirmed the need to unite ranks among Arab leaders. It would not be necessary for a meeting to be held once at the level of all Arab countries. The noble royal affirmation came today during an audience granted by the king to a delegation from the sisterly Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah which came to present to him the Great al-Fatih Order awarded posthumously to the late King Mohamed V, may God rest his soul in peace. [passage omitted]

Members of the Libyan delegation, which represents the General People's Congress and people's congresses and committees, led by Dr. Muftah al-Usta 'Umar, secretary of the General People's Congress, greeted the king. Members of the Libyan delegation came to our country while the Moroccan people were marking the 35th annivesary of the glorious independence day. [passage omitted].

[Begin King Hassan recording] Praise be to God, his kinfolk, and companions. Your Excellency, gentlemen: First of all, I would like to apologize because sometimes the tongue becomes tied when the matter concerns its owner. However, when the matter concerns his father and [word indistinct], the duty of thanks and gratitude becomes extremely difficult. [passage omitted]

An Arab saying goes like this: Your friend is the one who befriends you and not the one who believes you. There were stories and events among ourselves, but we always had respect and mutual loyalty for one another, and we also believed that there was none of us no matter how different our point of view might be, who would not agree over what must be his duty toward God, the homeland, and the Arab and Islamic family.

Gentlemen, we receive you at a time which is one of the darkest in the history of the Arab nation and the Islamic family. It is because we the Arabs are the ones who have been among the first in the field of writers and inventors and in giving everyone his due and being fair to any one who wants his rights upheld. [passage omitted]

Today we are facing two scandals: The first is the seizure of a thing by force and conquest. One must act in accordance with the old saying; this saying is not an Arab saying. It is a non-Arab saying. It says: Right is overcome by force. [sentence as heard]

The second scandal, and it is much more bitter and dreadful, is that on each occasion and at each moment we are on the brink of indescribable events, and it is not easy to analyze them or analyze what follows them. We will end up in a state in which the Muslim and Arab dies from the bullets of the Arab and Muslim.

Therefore, I have always been and still am saying that for the first time, the Arabs and the whole world have united on one thing. This is the first time in history it happened. Therefore, there is no difference between the resolutions of the Arab League and the resolutions of the UN Organization. If this is so, why then do the Arabs not meet? If they do not want to take the Cairo resolutions as a basis for their meeting, why do they not take the resolutions of the UN organizations? Thus we come together and we go back to what we were before and save ourselves receiving men and save for ourselves the material and moral potentials and keep away from evil and dishonor. It is because, as I said, God Almighty said in his holy book: And fear tumult or oppression which affects not in particular only those of you who do wrong; and know that God is strict in punishment. [Koranic verse]

I pray to God Almighty to lead us on the right path. The poet says: I have to try. It is not necessary that I succeed. So, we the heads of state of the Arab states have to try. At least to ease our conscience and so that we may be able to meet in the future without bitterness or feelings of guilt. To meet is imperative. It is not necessary that the

meeting should only be once with the attendance of 21 states. Perhaps if the number is great in the first instance of the participation, matters may become more complex. But let the opponents and those who suffered from the conflict who are nearest geographically and materially meet as a first stage and see if God brings forth something. Then, well and good, we can expand on it, and at that time, we can meet as an Arab League, as an Arab nation, and as an Arab summit, and place the seal of peace and safety and offer thanksgiving to God for guiding us and showing the path of good. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Saudi Interior Minister Visits Rabat 16 Nov

LD1611212490 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi interior minister, arrived at Rabat Sale Airport a short while ago with a message from King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, to his majesty the king.

[Begin Nayif recording] In reality I am very happy to visit fraternal Morocco and meet with His Majest King Hassan II to whom I will be conveying a message from his brother King Fahd, custodian of the two holy mosques, dealing with the current circumstances. There is no doubt that we are hoping the efforts being exerted by His Majesty King Hassan and his brother King Fahd will disperse the dark clouds over our Arab homeland. Thank you. [end recording] [passage ommitted]

Comments on Meeting With Hassan

LD1911225190 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the interior minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, left Rabat today for his country. He made a statement in which he said:

[Begin Prince Nayif recording] As I said when I arrived, I carry a message from the Custodian of the two holy Mosques to His Majesty King Hassan II. I have delivered this message and have spoken with His Majesty about what the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd charged me with. All issues contained in the message were discussed. Thus, I carry a message from His Majesty King Hassan II to his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques. Of course, it concerns the current regrettable reality in the Arab Gulf and the results of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, which has generated dangers that harm the peace of all the Gulf states, foremost of them the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Of course, as is known, the policy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as declared by the custodian of the two holy mosques [stipulates that] two matters should be achieved. That is, firstly, the complete withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of the Kuwaiti people and legitimate authority under the leadership of Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and His Highness Heir Apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, and, secondly, the legitimate right to defend the well-being of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the states of the Gulf generally. I found in His Majesty King Hassan II complete understanding. [passage omitted]

King Hassan Receives Message From Al-Qadhdhafi

LD1911215990 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Excerpt] King Hasan II of Morocco this evening in Rabat received [General People's Congress Secretary] Dr. Muftah al-Usta 'Umar, who conveyed to him a verbal message from the brother leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi]. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Official Says Strict Security Imposed on Darfur

EA1911123890 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Khartoum, 19th November (SUNA)—The governor of Darfur Region, Maj-Gen Abu-al-Qasim Ibrahim Muhammad, has said the regional concerned authorities recently adopted a number of measures to avoid the negative impacts of the inter-Chadian conflict in the region. In a press statement, Maj-Gen Muhammad pointed out that Armed Forces, along with other security forces, are imposing full control on the Sudanese-Chadian borders. He said no report on security disturbance was referred to the regional authorities since the outbreak of clashes between the Chadian opposition and government in eastern Chad.

Meanwhile, Maj-Gen Muhammad revealed that the Armed Forces and other security authorities were imposing strict security measures in the towns of Darfur, including restriction of the aliens' movement, preventing counter-security and using all means to prohibit fighting in the Sudanese lands. He went on to say that the regional authorities would never tolerate jeopardising the security and [would] deal legally [with] the expected influx of refugees into the Sudanese western border. He called on all the citizens of Darfur to security disturbance. [sentence as received] The governor added that any person responsible for undermining security or carry [as received] an unlicensed weapon would immediately be arrested.

Curfew Imposed in Cities

NC1911122290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1037 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Nov (MENA)—Darfur's provincial government has decided to impose a curfew in the province's major cities and to adopt strict security measures in the region. The measures aim to tighten control in the province in view of the conflict between the Chadian Government and the opposition, and to prevent the dispute from extending to Sudan.

This was announced by Darfur Governor Staff Major General Abu-al-Qasim Ibrahim, who is currently in Khartoum, in statements highlighted by the Sudanese newspapers today.

The Sudanese official revealed that persons who threaten the peace have been arrested and that unlicensed firearms have been banned in an attempt to control the situation and avoid disputes in the province.

Darfur Province is located on Sudan's western border with Chad and a number of the Chadian opposition are in Sudan.

Two Rebel Camps Reported Destroyed in Attack

EA1911165590 Khartoum National Unity Radio in English 1430 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Juba—Organized forces in Equatoria military area launched a bold attack towards Torit [eastern Equatoria provincial headquarters under Sudanese People's Liberation Army control] in which our gallant forces stormed two enemy camps in Jabal (Muluk) and Bilinyang, destroying and burning them completely and inflicting heavy casualties on them. Five hundred enemy soldiers were killed, amongst them First-Lieutenant (Mawan), the commander, and another enemy officer. Their sergeants fled in disarray. The following arms and ammunition were captured: one cannon [as heard] mortar 82mm in good condition; three Kalashnikov rifles; ammunition with different calibers.

On the other hand, the friendly forces from Toposa and Murle [tribes] destroyed an enemy camp (?east of) Juba and killed (?400) enemy soldiers. (?Staff) Lieutenant General Ibrahim 'Umar, the chief of staff, witnessed the gallant operations launched by our bold forces in Equatoria. The commander of our forces received messages of congratulations from the commander and the staff of Equatoria military area.

Al-Bashir Returns, Comments on Pakistan Visit

EA1811132790 Khartoum SUNA in English 1016 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Nov (SUNA)—The Revolution Command Council's chairman, Lt. Gen 'Umar al-Bashir, and the accompanying delegation returned home yesterday concluding a tour which covered China, Japan and Pakistan.

In arriving statements Gen. al-Bashir hailed the achievements scored in the development field in Pakistan. He expressed hope that a comprehensive co-operation in all domains will be realised between Sudan and Pakistan, particularly in the agricultural field.

While in Pakistan Gen. al-Bashir held series of negotiations with the Pakistani president and prime minister centered on the spheres of co-operation between the two countries. A joint ministerial committee was agreed to be set up to lay down the bases of the joint co-operation. The formation of the said committee was agreed to be finalised within a month.

Dispute Reported in RCC Over Famine Claim

EA1711180490 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] After the statement by Colonel Faisal Madani, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and governor of Kurdufan Region, to NEW HORIZON, an English language paper issued by the government, confirming famine in Kurdufan Region and a severe food shortage estimated at 750,000 tonnes, a sharp dispute emerged between him and other RCC members who deny that famine exists, including al-Bashir, chairman of the RCC. The dispute led to excluding him from the delegation which left for China, Japan, and (?Pakistan). Some reports say that he has been placed under house arrest until measures are taken against him or until he is charged for the statement he issued.

Minister Admits Food Shortage

EA1611204690 Khartoum National Unity Radio in English 1430 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Minister of relief and displaced affairs, Mr. Peter Orat Ador, denied the presence of famine in Sudan, adding that some areas in the country suffer food shortages. Ador, in a press statement he gave yesterday, said a joint team of food, agricultural organisations, and World Food Program, along with the Ministry of Agriculture, will submit a report on Sudan's food needs. On the food situation in southern Sudan, the minister indicated that the transportation of food to Equatoria and Waw is being continued, adding that preparations are currently under way to airlift 5,000 sacks of dhurrah [sorghum] to Malakal town.

Sesame Harvest Reported Up

EA1611210890 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Navy Colonel Salah al-Din Muhammad Ahmad Karrar, member of the Revolution Command Council and chairman of the Economic Committee, has said that this season's sesame harvest has a good output with an increase of at least 70 percent over last season's harvest. His excellency stated that this year's sesame harvest is expected to be nearly 100,000 tonnes, pointing out that the yields signal great returns owing to the increase in world sesame prices. Col. Karrar said that the state's intention to import Egyptian beans was by no means meant to compete with the local production of this crop, but to close the gap between local production and actual consumption of this product which is so important to the public.

Wheat Reserves Said Adequate

EA1711171490 Khartoum SUNA in English 0923 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Khartoum, 16 November (SUNA)—Some 50,000 tonnes of wheat contracted by the Commerce and Supply Ministry is due to arrive on November 20th from Saudi Arabia in the (?context) of its efforts to meet the country's need for wheat and wheat flour, a source at the ministry said Thursday. The source indicated that instructions were made to the Sudan Shipping Lines to send a number of ships to Jeddah Port of Saudi Arabia for the transportation of the wheat.

The source has meanwhile disclosed that the quantities of wheat from Port Sudan to the other towns of the country, especially the national capital, amount to 20,000 tonnes weekly. He said the situation of wheat reserves is satisfactory and denied any shortage in this commodity. The source has called on the concerned authorities to work for reconsidering the distribution channels that ensure better distribution of the consumer goods.

Opposition Says 12,000 Rail Workers Fired

NC1811112690 Paris AFP in English 1045 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Manama, Nov 18 (AFP)—Sudanese military authorities have sacked 12,000 rail workers after they refused to end a strike, Sudanese opposition sources in the Gulf said Sunday.

They were confirming a report by the United Arab Emirates newspaper Al-Fajr that the bulk of the northern town of Atbarah's 13,000 rail workers had been fired by the 18-month-old regime.

The sources also reported that eight people had been killed and 59 injured in clashes between troops and the workers in the past two weeks in Atbarah, Sudan's main rail industry centre 260 kilometres (160 miles) north of Khartoum.

"Many injuries were serious and the city is almost under siege", one source said. Authorities have also closed schools in the town.

The rail protest, now in its third week, was said to have been triggered by a sharp shortage of consumer goods and sacking of several rail union members.

Tunisia

Ben Ali, Petrovskiy Discuss Gulf Crisis

LD1711142790 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received this morning at the Republic palace in Carthage Vladimir Petrovskiy, Soviet deputy foreign minister and special envoy of President Gorbachev to the head of state, in the presence of Mohamed al-Jeri, minister director of the president's bureau. Following the audience, which was also attended by the Soviet ambassador to Tunisia, the Soviet envoy made a statement in which he expressed satisfaction at the complete identity of the attitudes of Tunisia and the USSR with regard to the seriousness of the situation in the Gulf. He said that the time factor has special importance in the current circumstances, and that it has become necessary to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

The Soviet envoy highlighted in this respect the importance of the role the Arab countries should be playing to reach a peaceful solution. He said that his talks with the president focused on the means of activating the Arab role to achieve this solution. He added that the audience was an opportunity to enrich his perception of the ways toward achieving a peceful settlement of the Gulf crisis. He said he sensed President Ben Ali felt the need for speedy measures and steps to end the crisis peacefully.

Envoy Stresses UN Resolutions

LD1711184690 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] In a news conference he held in Tunis this morning, Mr. Vladimir Petrovskiy affirmed that it was not too late for a peaceful and political solution to the Gulf crisis. He stressed at the same time the necessity to be quick, in using the time factor to achieve peace in the region.

The envoy of the Soviet leadership to the leaders of the Arab Maghreb pointed out that a recourse to a military choice in solving the crisis will have negative consequences both in the Middle East region and at the international level. Mr. Petrovskiy stressed the need to implement all the resolutions of the UN Security Council concerning the Gulf crisis, so as to open the door for a solution to the Middle East conflicts, at the forefront of which is the Palestinian issue. He pointed out that his visit to the Arab Maghreb countries comes within the framework of the consultations and discussions that the Soviet Union is holding to reach a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis and to prevent a recourse to force in solving the crisis.

Mr. Petrovskiy expressed his satisfaction with the talks he held with President Zine Abidine Ben Ali this morning. He pointed out the importance of his visit to Tunisia, and of the efforts made by President Ben Ali at Arab and international levels, to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. It is worth mentioning that Mr. Petrovskiy is now on a tour of the various Arab Maghreb countries.

Doctors Urge Breaking Medicine Blockade on Iraq

JN1811165790 Baghdad INA in English 1430 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Tunis, Nov. 18, INA—Tunisian physicians have called for organising an Arab medical gathering to encounter and break the medicinal blockade imposed on Iraqi children, women and elderly people.

In a statement issued here today at the conclusion of their meetings with delegation of the Iraqi dentists union headed by Dr Ghalib al-Jasim, the Tunisian doctors described the medicinal blockade imposed by America and its allies on Iraq as a flagrant tresspass on the human concepts and international norms.

The statement has also condemned the American-Atlantic military invasion of the territories of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and the Arab Gulf, demanding the immediate evacuation of these forces that have desecrated the sacred areas and offended the Moslims the world over.

The Tunisian physicians have also denounced the policy of starvation and besiege clamped on Iraq under the name of international legitimacy, and mocking those who claim defending it while they deem lawful the death of children and women in Palestine and Lebanon.

They sent a call to all humane organisations asking them to refuse starving the Iraqi people and work for lifting the blockade against it.

Members of 'Terrorist Group' Arrested

LD1911020590 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] The national security authorities disclosed during the past few days a case of utmost danger in which a group of youths, whose minds were misled by the wrong understanding of religion, had become embroiled.

The security authorities learned that a significant quantity of explosives, normally used in quarries, had disappeared from the warehouses of a quarry located behind the pipelines company in the outskirts of the capital. In view of the importance of the situation and its danger to the well-being of citizens, the security authorities took the necessary precautions until they were able to arrest the group which had stolen the explosives.

Among those arrested is one who is accused of destroying the doors of the Zaytunah Mosque during the riotous acts that were undertaken by a group of fanatics in recent days.

The weight of the stolen explosives is 35 kilograms. This is a great quantity, capable of inflicting utmost material and human damage.

The leader of the terrorist group, Abd al-Wahid al-Majiri, who was born in Tunis in 1969, said during questioning that the gang had been formed after contacting and coordinating with Nabil al-Wa'ah, Fawzi al-Jiddi, Kamal al-Wirtani, Husayn al-Majiri, al-Habib al-Ghanni, and Al-Hattab Bin 'Uthman. He added that the seven members of the group at first used to meet at Salman al-Farisi Mosque in the capital, before holding numerous meetings in Ghabat al-Dhalam in Qabariyyah district, in his house as well as in Belvedere.

Abd al-Wahid al-Majiri confessed that the group had armed itself with sticks, knives, acid, and explosives from the quarries, and that its aim was to strike at public places, including (Naha al- Zarqun) in the capital. He also said that the so-called Al-Nahda Movement had contacted them, especially Muhsin al-Jandubi, who is one of the leaders working as a [word indistinct] in the city of Tunis as part of organizing the Al-Nahda Movement. Al-Nahda also charged other elements with contacting them, for example, Al-'Arabi al-Rayhani, [name indistinct], and the accused Ismail, and asked them to join it. It proposed to put them under a leader who would supervise their training, a matter that was confirmed by the rest of the terrorist group.

The questioning of this group is still continuing, gradually revealing new names and plots.

Kuwait

Amir Message on Gulf Crisis to CSCE Summit

LD1911134190 London KUNA in Arabic 1121 GMT 19 NOV 90

[Excerpt] Al-Ta'if, 19 Nov (KUNA)—His Highness Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah warned today that the repercussions of the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait could extend to harm international security and stability. He stressed the significant importance of the time factor in ending the occupation. He also warned that this invasion will cause great damage to world economies.

In a message addressed to today's historic CSCE summit in Paris, the amir said that at a time when the world has started to lay the foundations for a new world order, based on justice, peace, and detente, Iraq has dealt a severe blow to these principles through its occupation of an independent state.

However, the amir stressed that the stance of the international community with Kuwait is "a message [words indistinct] to the aggressor which states that the civilized world is standing formly against him, and it will not allow him to continue his aggression." [passage omitted]

Amir Meets Pakistani Prime Minister Sharif

LD1911152790 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, received today his excellency Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and his acompanying delegation.

The discussion covered the latest developments of the situation in the Arabian Gulf, bilateral relations, and issues concerning the Islamic world.

The meeting was attended by His Highness the Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah; the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir; adviser at the Amir's office, 'Abdal-Rahman Salim al- Atiqi; minister of trade and industry and acting finance minister, Nasir 'Abdallah al-Ridan; and the ambassador of the State of Kuwait in Islam-Abad, Qasim 'Umar al-Yaqut.

The prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, left al-Ta'if this afternoon after arriving earlier today. He was received and seen off at al-Hawiyah airport by His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the minister of trade and industry and acting finance minister, and the ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Information Minister Shaykh Jabir Interviewed

PM1911120690 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 16 Nov 90 pp 24-25

[Unattributed interview with Information Minister Shaykh Jabir Mubarak al-Hamad in Jeddah; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [AL-HAWADITH] Do you believe that the air blockade resolution has tightened the noose around the braggart regime?

[Shaykh Jabir] Obviously the recent resolution complements earlier resolutions whose objectives are to tighten the noose around the Iraqi regime on land, at sea, and in the air so as to force it to withdraw and submit to the international will or commit suicide by embarking on an insane military action to fight the entire world.

[AL-HAWADITH] Observers have said that the Soviet foreign minister's UN General Assembly speech reflected the Soviet Union's anxiety about the confrontation. How do you view the Soviet role?

[Shaykh Jabir] Actually the Soviet role in the crisis is honorable and very clear. I believe that the Soviet foreign minister's speech was good and sincere. It reflected the view of the world as a whole, including the Soviet Union.

[AL-HAWADITH] We noted that Yemen did not vote against the air blockade resolution. Has there been a change in the positions of the states with so-called reservations?

[Shaykh Jabir] We noted this, and it was a good position which has been accredited to the brothers in Yemen. The Iraqi regime's ill intentions have become clear, and I believe that no one now believes the pretexts cited in the past.

[AL-HAWADITH] Are there any Kuwaiti contacts with Yemen?

[Shaykh Jabir] We have never severed contacts with any state.

[AL-HAWADITH] Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Sabah, minister of state for foreign affairs, has visited Tehran. What is the nature of the political moves vis-a-vis Iran?

[Shaykh Jabir] We are satisfied with the Iranian position. The aim of the visit by our minister of state for foreign affairs was partly to reassure ourselves about Kuwaiti citizens in Iran. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] Do you believe that the map will change as a result of the evil aggression?

[Shaykh Jabir] I do not believe that there will be a radical change in the region. But I do believe that if a military stance is adopted it will cause terrible damage to Iraq itself.

[AL-HAWADITH] How do you view the Kuwaiti resistance?

[Shaykh Jabir] The entire world is following what has happened, and is happening ,in Kuwait—that is, arrests,

terror, and torture by the Iraqi forces, to force Kuwaiti citizens to surrender to them. But Kuwait's sons have not surrendered. They have actually made their voice heard to the world through the continuing resistance operations. They will not respond to or implement Saddam's decisions at any price. The Kuwaiti people believe in their right to a dignified life. They believe in their right to live like the other peoples, with pride and dignity and to safeguard their identity, independence, and their country's sovereignty. We are confident that God is with us, truth is with us, and all the world states are with us. [passage omitted]

Oman

Qabus Receives Messages From Gorbachev, Salih

JN1911164090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1720 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Muscat, 18 Nov (INA)—His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman has received a written message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. Yuriy Osipyan, member of the Presidential Council and head of the Soviet delegation participating in Oman's celebrations, conveyed the message when His Majesty Sultan Qabus received him here today.

His majesty the Sultan also received an oral message from General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, President of the Republic of Yemen. Yemeni Justice Minister 'Abd-al-Wasi' Ahmad Salam conveyed the message to the sultan.

Al-Rawwas Calls For Withdrawal From Kuwait

JN2011091190 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Information Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin- Muhammad al-Rawwas has affirmed that resolving all the regional and international problems through peaceful means has always been a subject of interest to the government of his Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, who believes in the language of reason and dialogue for solving any crisis.

Referring to the Gulf crisis during his news conference at the Muscat Intercontinental Hotel this morning, the information minister said that reason must find a way out of any crisis and that the military solution will only further complicate the issue. He also affirmed that the peaceful solution will always remain the shortest way to solve problems in the shortest time possible without harming the options or resolutions sought by the parties concerned. [passage omitted]

During his news conference, 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Muhammad al-Rawwas stressed the need not to give aggression any chance to achieve any gains, referring to the sultanate's support for all the efforts to find a peaceful way out of the crisis as well as the need to give these efforts time to achieve their goals with minimal losses. He also referred to the seriousness of the situation and the size of the losses that may be sustained by the region if a war breaks out, a war in which sophisticated military weapons that have been concentrated in this region will be used, adding that this is the largest military concentration since World War II.

His excellency said that the available ways, as stated by His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, are that contacts and consultations among the fraternal Arab countries should be given enough time to bear fruit. He added: We should not call for war because war will spare no one and because war is the language of destruction. He said there is deep concern for the Iraqi people and the potentials of the Iraqi people and Kuwait and that there is eagerness to save them from losses and from becoming victims of destruction if the war breaks out in the region, God forbid. His excellency reaffirmed that there is no giving in or retreat from the principle of restoring the conditions that prevailed in Kuwait before 2 August. [passage omitted]

Regarding the existence of an Omani initiative to end the current crisis in the Gulf based on the sultanate's usual quiet diplomatic practice to solve crises, the information minister said that initiatives are usually launched when the parties concerned declare their readiness to accept an initiative. We believe that the first initiative should be launched by the fraternal Republic of Iraq, which should declare its readiness to accept the principle of withdrawal from Kuwait before any other declarations in this respect. This principle should be defined and officially recognized.

Al-Rawwas added that it will not be easy or acceptable to move toward any kind of initiative in light of the occupation of Kuwait by a fraternal state, especially since this state has not announced its readiness to withdraw. His excellency noted that initiatives should not be made haphazardly and that Omani diplomacy, led and enlightened by His Majesty the Sultan's directives, should not work merely for the sake of action, but rather there should be clear action and correct principles that would push this action toward a positive result. He pointed out that the ball is now in Iraq's court and that the world is now waiting for Iraq to take the initiative in this respect. His excellency said that we are convinced that the Iraqi leadership has the courage to undertake courageous initiatives at the appropriate time. He expressed hope that it would not be too late before Iraq comes up with an initiative that would restore right to its owners and restore the normal situation between the Arab brothers so that they would join the world march, which is now preparing for a new world order, and that they would not be preoccupied with their situations away from this new world order. Otherwise, the responibility would be bigger and the losses graver.

His excellency 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Muhammad al-Rawwas stressed that any peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis cannot be achieved unless Iraq officially announces in principle its acceptance to withdraw. He said that such an announcement would be the key to prompt Arab and international sides to work for a peaceful solution. He stressed that the real action would be for Iraq to announce its withdrawal. If it did so, it would be easy to proceed toward a peaceful solution, the Arab or international solution. [passage omitted]

Replying to another question on Moroccan Monarch King Hassan II's proposal to hold an emergency Arab summit, his excellency the information minister said the reason for holding an Arab summit must be clear. If Iraq did not accept withdrawal in principle, then the Arab summit would be one of arguments. The Arab nation does not need more arguments. Now, if we reduce our arguments and divisions that would be better for us as Arabs. If Iraq announced its acceptance of withdrawal from fraternal Kuwait, then there would be common ground for dialogue and Arab political action to achieve this objective.

On not severing diplomatic relations between Arab states and Iraq as was the case in prior crises, his excellency said that his majesty's government does not see in cutting off diplomatic relations between Arab brothers any diplomatic action to which it would adhere.

Replying to another question on the proposal to establish a regional security system, his excellency said that this is an old issue, going back to the 1940's. He denied that any such proposal was presented to the Arab states. On the Sultanate's viewpoint in this respect, his excellency said in any security system the concerned parties should first hold talks and determine their roles and what they cannot achieve by themselves that foreign support would be needed. He said this is the viewpoint of his majesty's government.

On the Sultanate's political actions to resolve the Gulf crisis in its capacity as the current head of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], his excellency said fraternal Kuwait has not asked the GCC for any role with respect to its issue with Iraq since it was presented to the Arab League, and because the other party is not a GCC member. In this context, he said this did not remove the GCC states' responsibilities toward fraternal Kuwait. There are the Desert Shield forces stationed in Hafr al-Batin, Saudi Arabia. He noted that there is an agreement between the GCC states on the role of each state in case of crisis. His excellency said that there is a fully equipped military unit now working in Hafr al-Batin in Saudi Arabia along with its brothers, which was dispatched on the second day of the problem.

On the results of the Gulf crisis and the possibility of forming a new Arab political map, his excellency 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Muhammad al-Rawwas stressed in his press conference that all previous Arab crises have trained the Arabs to meet and face them. In this respect, he expressed regret over the rift in the Arab body created by the current crisis which has cast its shadow over the Arab nation. He expressed hope that this crisis and its negative effects will not last. He said that if we do not call a spade a spade and if we fail to know the real nature of men, we cannot stand on our feet and face our big responsibilities in coping with a quickly changing world.

Qatar

USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

Arrival Statement

JN1911154290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1415 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Doha, 19 Nov (WAKH)—Aleksandr Belonogov, deputy foreign minister and the Soviet president's envoy, has said that his current tour of the region is linked to the grave situation arising from Iraq's aggression against Kuwait.

He told the QATARI NEWS AGENCY upon arrival in Doha today that "the Soviet leadership found it necessary to hold talks and consultations with the Arab leaders in the region under the current difficult circumstances." He said that during his visit to Doha, he would hold talks with Qatari officials on the region's crisis.

The Soviet envoy called on Iraq to implement Security Council resolutions demanding the unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwaiti territory and the restoration of the legitimate government represented by His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al- Sabah, Amir of Kuwait.

He reiterated that the Soviet Union supports the international resolutions and Iraqi withdrawal. He added: "We are doing our best to regain Kuwait and restore its legitimate government. The point of discussion now is to force Iraq to implement the international resolutions on this issue."

Statement to Newspaper

JN2011115190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Doha, 20 Nov (WAKH)—Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov has affirmed that there is increasing likelihood of war breaking out in the Gulf region. However, he said, this does not mean that it is inevitable. He said that this should urge all sides to intensify efforts toward finding a solution to the Gulf crisis through peaceful options.

In a statement to the Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH published today, the Soviet official expressed satisfaction with the results of his talks and meetings with the leaders of the countries he visited prior to coming to Doha, which included Saudi Arabia and Egypt. He said he found agreement in opinion and stands between the Soviet Union and these countries.

He added: This agreement in stands manifested itself in the total rejection of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the need to return the legitimate Kuwaiti government. He noted that there was agreement over the importance of realizing these goals through peaceful means.

Belonogov concluded his statement saying that he found a strong desire among the leaders of the countries he visited over the necessity of a complete Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwaiti territories. He said he also discussed with them the arrangements that would follow the Iraqi withdrawal.

The Soviet official arrived in Doha last night on a two-day visit to Qatar as part of his current tour of countries in the region.

Delivers Gorgachev Message

JN2011112590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1015 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Doha, 20 Nov (WAKH)—Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad al Thani has received an oral message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The message was delivered by Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov when he was received by the amir of Qatar in Doha this morning.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY noted that the message deals with the tense situation in the region resulting from the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait, and affirms the full implementation of the Security Council resolutions which stipulate the complete and unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi troops from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate government to Kuwait represented by its Amir His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

The agency said that during the meeting they reviewed the new developments in the Gulf crisis, the appropriate means to end it, regional and international dimensions of the crisis, in addition to supporting, bolstering, and expanding the scope of relations of friendship and cooperation between Qatar and the Soviet Union to benefit the interests of the two people and countries.

Saudi Arabia

Palestinian Group Backs Saudis, Condemns Iraq

LD1911175490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1625 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Jeddah, 19 Nov (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al-Sa'ud has received a message from Musa Muhammad 'Amashah of the Palestine Liberals Movement [Harakat Ahrar Falastin], the text of which reads as follows:

We members of the Palestine Liberals Movement wish to affirm our solidarity with you in all the measures you have taken to check the premeditated aggression on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We place ourselves and everything we own under your disposal against the enemies of this nation.

We strongly denounce the unjustifiable Iraqi invasion of the fraternal state of Kuwait. This is nothing more than an abortive attempt by the Iraqi regime to keep the Iraqi people silent over the concessions it made and which were planned before the invasion of Kuwait.

We wish to convey to you our decision to stand by you and to place ourselves at your disposal, fully prepared to sacrifice all that we possess. As we have stood in the face of the Israeli invasion in support of our Palestine cause, we stand today in the face of the new plots in defense of the Arab and Islamic right.

May God cherish you for the Arabs and may he keep you a bastion for us and for Islam.

The custodian of the two holy mosques has thanked Musa Muhammad 'Amashah for his kind feelings.

King Fahd Receives Pakistan's Sharif 19 Nov

LD1911175890 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1735 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Jeddah, 19 Nov (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al-Sa'ud received at his office at al-Salam Palace today the Pakistani prime minister, Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, and members of his delegation. The audience was attended by minister of state and member of the Saudi Council of Ministers, Mohammad Ibrahim Mas'aud; the information minister, 'Ali al-Sha'ir; the Saudi ambassador to Pakistan, Yusuf Matbaqani, and the Pakistani ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

King Fahd Presides Over Cabinet Meeting

LD1911212790 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Excerpts] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz Al-Sa'ud presided over a cabinet meeting this afternoon at Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah.

After the meeting, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir made a statement to SPA, in which he said: Following a quick review of the development of events on the Arab and international arenas, King Fahd, the custodian of the two holy mosques, acquainted the cabinet with details of the meetings and talks he has had during the week with senior guests of the kingdom and the envoys who visited it. [passage omitted]

The minister of information said that as a result of these meetings, the custodian of the two holy mosques told the cabinet that all the talks he has had and the messages he has received affirm complete support for the declared steadfast stand of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the face of the treacherous Iraqi aggression on the fraternal state of Kuwait and its consequences, which were all rejected by the Arab summit conference, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the UN Security Council.

In this regard, Minister al-Sha'ir added, King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al- 'Aziz, may God preserve him, spoke of the importance of the meetings and consultations the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia holds with various Arab and international leaderships to find ways that could lead to the removal of the Iraqi aggression and the return of conditions to what they were on prior to 2 August 1990. [passage omitted]

Saddam Recommends Releasing German Nationals

JN2011125990 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1145 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn this morning chaired a Revolution Command Council meeting. The Council discussed the Arab and international political situation. The Council blessed the leader president's idea of allowing the German nationals and guests in Iraq to travel outside Iraq or remain in it—an idea which his excellency presented in a letter to the National Assembly in affirmation of the ties that bind Iraq and the Arab nation with Germany.

The following is the text of the leader president's letter to the speaker and members of the National Assembly:

In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate. Respected speaker and members of the National Assembly. Among the decisions which were made to protect our people and their great gains and to defend the Arab nation's honor, sovereignty, usurped rights, and threatened security, a decision was made to prevent some foreigners from leaving in order to give the reckless minds in the Bush and Thatcher administrations the opportunity to desist from proceeding toward the precipice of evil. This decision was one of the main decisions that were made despite the unpleasant feeling of dissatisfaction. However, God charges us in accordance with our intentions. And because our intentions were good, trying to create a chance for peace instead of war, God is forgiving, compassionate.

Wherever we found within our powers or your powers a ready opportunity to strengthen the course of peace or to help open an opportunity for peace, we always responded to the calls of our conscience and human responsibility, and to the petitions and appeals by the good men of various nationalities, in order to take speedy measures so that this or that group of people would enjoy the freedom to travel or stay on in Iraq in accordance with their own free will.

It happened that among those who were prevented from traveling were nationals from the state of Germany, which according to Arab history, has never harmed the Arabs, participated in a conspiracy against their sovereignty, or acted against their call for unity or against their security. In fact, the people of this state have made a significant contribution by persistently working sincerely and accurately on development and construction projects in Iraq. Our people and the sons of our nation, and their records, which go back several decades, have held and still hold special regard for Germany.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's statements, and before this the talks that we held with Mr. Willy Brandt, have revived hope of establishing intimate relations of friendship, not only between Iraq and Germany, but also between Germany and the entire Arab nation based on mutual interests and respect, and on putting the present within the framework of the future.

Although Iraq's lesson from international relations shakes its confidence in wagering on relations with the big states, future horizons deserve that we express our wishes in the hope that these wishes can arrive at a point that would serve as a good basis for fruitful action in the future, and that the positive response that defines the distinguished stand will leave its impact so as to encourage those who respond to it.

Mr. Kohl's call for peaceful solutions and dialogue, as an alternative to the road of those who are beating the drums of war in Bush's administration, and Thatcher, has special significance regarding dealing with the present with all its complications. The hope for good relations in the future is the basic guarantee. When Mr. Kohl says this and adopts this stand, then we know how brave and enlightened this stand is in dealing with the present and in discerning future prospects, especially since such a stand encounters obstacles on the international level. We are dutybound to encourage this stand and the German people to adopt further stands that make a distinction between the interests of Germany and the interests of the other advocates of wars and hegemony. Based on this I call on you, O brothers, to respond by giving all German nationals who are prevented from travel the freedom to leave or stay in Iraq.

I beseech God Almighty to lead our steps on the right path in the interest of our people, nation, and all the believers and good people in the world.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn

[Dated] 2 Jumadi al-Ula 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 20 November 1990

Germans Reportedly Moved To Strategic Locations

LD1811094290 Hamburg DPA in German 0918 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad (DPA)—Yesterday another five Germans in Iraq were taken from the capital, Baghdad, to strategically important points. A colleague of those taken away reported this today to the special correspondent of the Swiss News Agency, SDA, in Baghdad. The five were officially summoned in the afternoon and then immediately taken to an unknown location. [passage omitted]

Food Rationing Not Applicable To 'Guests'

JN1611165590 Kuwait AL-NIDA' in Arabic 13 Nov 90 p 3

[Excerpt] Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih has declared that Iraq's guests are not included in the quota limitations, whether of foodstuffs or other goods. These goods are available to them in the quantities and qualities they demand or need in implementation of leader President Saddam Husayn.

This came during a seminar the minister held with the correspondents of INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY], local

newspapers, and Baghdad Television, which was dedicated to the Ministry's role in securing the needs in agricultural produce and the process of marketing the produce, as well as evaluating the ration card experiment in providing food to the citizens, fighters, Arab and foreign nationals, and Iraq's guests.

He said it was forbidden to provide citizens with quantities less than the fixed quota for each individual according to the ration card for whatever reason. Any agent who violates this quota will be subjected to a legal investigation. He will be committed to and responsible for providing the full quotas that he receives to Iraqi citizens and Arab and foreign nationals. He will be granted an additional percentage over the percentage allocated to him to cover weight discrepancies. These additional percentages are as follows: Three percent for fats and rice; two percent for legumes, including chickpeas, lentils, and beans; and one percent for sugar, in addition to 25 fils for each kilogram of basic foodstuffs to be sold at the retail price. [passage omitted]

Speaker Receives Wives of British 'Guests'

JN1711161790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Nov (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih received today the wives of Iraq's British guests, messengers of peace.

The National Assembly speaker said that all Middle East problems are caused by the interference by foreign powers in the region's internal affairs and also by attempts to peddle colonial designs and serve selfish interests at the expense of the security and safety of the region's peoples.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih said that Iraq repeatedly proposed peace initiatives based on objective elements to resolve all regional problems once and for all, reaffirming the need for linking these problems. However, these initiatives were rejected by the Thatcher government and the U.S. Administration, which are beating the drums of war in a bid to launch an aggression against the Iraqi people, who will be firm in their efforts to defend their dignity and territorial integrity, Salih added.

The British women expressed the belief that resolving the region's problems is the responsibility of the region's peoples. They pointed out that the British public supports peace because the results of a war will not be equal to the losses and sacrifices that will be wasted, not to mention that any war will deny future generations the chance to lead a secure life based on friendly ties among all peoples.

European Pacifists on Peace Mission

JN1911173290 Baghdad INA in English 1220 GMT 19 Nov 90

[All European names as received]

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 19, INA—On an island in the Tigris which divides Baghdad into two, a group of Europeans say they are risking their lives for peace.

It is an idea they hope catches on. "The idea is to work toward filling the battlefield with peace workers before any war can break out. This has never been done before in history," Ulf Amsell, a 46-year-old transport worker from Sweden told ASSOCIATED PRESS correspondent Terry Leonard.

"If more people follow my idea, it can be effective. Perhaps 5,000 would be enough. This is my purpose."

Amsell and his companions at the world peace and friendship camp say they are voluntarily playing a role of peace by deterring an attack by U.S. and allied forces in Saudi Arabia.

Iraqi officials are delighted to host the European pacifists in the tiny island cottages.

These Europeans can leave Iraq whenever they want, and most plan to stay only for a week or two.

"I am not afraid they will keep me here," said Jon Peter Oie, 31, of Norway. "No one in the world can come here if they keep the peace workers. "Officials from Iraq's Ministry of Information and Culture have arranged lectures on Iraqi history for the Europeans and bus tours to factory sites around Baghdad.

"We've received many requests and applications from peace activists from various parts of the world to establish peace camps in many towns and even on the front lines," Information Minister Mr. Latif Nusayyif Jassim said on Saturday.

"We highly appreciate and respect all these volunteers who have come here to serve peace out of human and moral considerations," he added.

On Saturday, the Europeans were taken to a clothing factory in Baghdad where they were cheered by the women behind the sewing machines.

They were also told by the plant manager that the Gulf crisis is an Arab problem that can only be settled by considering President Husayn's August 12 peace plan, which linked the crisis to the solution of all other Middle East problems.

A 38-year-old photographer from Naples, Rino La Rocca said: "I support the Iraqi people during this very dangerous situation. We are testifying with our physical presence to our desire to avoid war," he said.

"We have been criticized by leftist parties in Italy for coming here," added Nesi Manlio, 36, another of the 13 Italians at the camp. "But the parties just say a lot of words about war and do nothing to stop it."

"It is too easy to be against war in Italy. I have a job, a car, a house. It is too easy to say you are against the war. Here I am risking my life and that is important," he added.

Further on Le Pen's Visit to Baghdad

Praises Saddam Decision

JN1911153090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1315 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Nov (INA)—Sa'di Mahdi Salih, National Assembly speaker, received today Jean-Marie Le Pen, head of the National Front in France and member of the European Parliament, and his delegation.

The National Assembly speaker praised the delegation's visit to Iraq and noted its positive effects on Iraqi-European relations in general, and on relations between the Iraqi and French peoples in particular.

He said that peace-loving forces and those seeking peace are continuing their good efforts to spare the Middle East and the world the consequences of war, which the United States wants and whose effects will reach many parts of the world if it breaks out.

Jean-Marie Le Pen voiced his and the delegation's appreciation for Iraq's peace initiatives seeking to settle all problems in the region on the basis of justice and equality, particularly Iraq's decision yesterday to allow all guests of the Iraq people to travel in batches as of 25 December on the occasion of Christmas and the New Year.

Le Pen said the objective of nationalistic forces and political organizations in France and Europe is to avert war and resolve Middle East problems. He said if war should erupt in the Middle East, it will endanger all countries in the world and its effects cannot be contained.

Discusses Crisis With Saddam

JN1911165390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1632 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received today Jean-Marie Le Pen, head of the French National Front, and his delegation, which is made up of European Parliament members.

During the meeting, a deep and frank discussion was conducted on the situation in the region, the threats posed by the U.S. buildup, and the best means to achieve stability and comprehensive peace in the Gulf and the region.

President Saddam Husayn said that, from the beginning of time, dialogue has been the best and most fruitful way for us to serve humanity. If everybody remembered God's guidelines in dealing with matters and man, many of the catastrophes and much of the pain that mankind has been afflicted with would not have happened.

His excellency added: We, as human beings, are flexible in thinking and conduct, but in the right way and through humanitarian relations and dialogue, not through threats.

The president stressed Iraq's determination to achieve peace and the importance of peace for the region and the world at large. His excellency said: We want a comprehensive and full peace for the region. We want a comprehensive and interconnected solution to all of them [Middle East problems], at head of which is the Palestine question, without whose solution peace in the region will remain elusive.

His excellency added: Although we maintain the rights of Iraq and the Arab nation, we cannot do that within a narrow and selfish framework. Rather, we seek to achieve them with a strong feeling of responsibility toward mankind in our capacity as one family before God, and out of our feeling that we cannot live alone and be happy if mankind as a whole is not happy.

President Saddam Husayn reminded Mr. Le Pen of an old saying that dates back to the time when Babylon was in its days of glory: "Even if he controls the four quarters of earth, no military leader can become the master of the world unless he controls Babylon." His excellency said: It seems that President Bush thinks that he cannot become the master of the world unless he controls the oil in the region. This will be a great disaster for the world, because, if this happens, many free men will be turned into slaves, not only in the region but in many parts of the world.

The president explained: This is why you see us saying no—out of this humanitarian feeling—to threats and pressures, and yes to dialogue and peace. Threats should not replace dialogue, understanding, and human relations because, if this happens, we would not be able to solve the world's complex problems.

President Saddam Husayn expressed his appreciation and that of the leadership and people in Iraq for Mr. Le Pen's call for peace and rejection of the methods of those who are pushing things toward war and explosion.

Mr. Le Pen expressed appreciation to the president for receiving him and his delegation. He said: We are happy because we have helped to explain Iraq's problems and the issues of peace in the region. He stressed that the French people want matters and all conflicts in the region to be settled peacefully and through dialogue and negotiations with no preconditions.

Mr. Le Pen voiced support for Iraq's peace initiative of 12 August and said that it includes some new factors on the international level.

He also hailed President Saddam Husayn's initiative to allow French nationals to travel and praised the leadership's decision to allow foreign nationals to leave as of 25 December 1990 over a period of three months.

Mr. Le Pen said: There are many common issues between you and us. These include the desire of the French and Iraqi peoples to live in peace. He added: This determination on the part of our peoples has prompted us to support solving the Gulf crisis through dialogue and peaceful means and to reject the path of war.

Mr. Le Pen stressed: We have come here for the sake of the past, the present, and the future, because I am confident we will come together. The Arabs and the French now have many things to do to protect peace and their peoples' interests.

Jean-Marie Le Pen appealed to the president to allow a number of European nationals to travel. The president responded to this appeal and decided to allow a number of Europeans to leave at a date to be determined by Mr. Le Pen, out of his excellency's appreciation for Mr. Le Pen's humanitarian positions, which support peace and call for dialogue and rejecting war as the means to deal with the situation in the Gulf.

The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, and Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information.

Wins Hostage Release

JN1911214490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2050 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Nov (INA)—Mr. Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the French National Front and member of the European Parliament, has stressed that his meeting with President Saddam Husayn was extremely fruitful and constructive and yielded important positive results.

He said he held an important exchange of views with President Saddam Husayn on Arab and international developments, especially political and economic ones.

He said that during the meeting, the president ordered that a number of European nationals be allowed to travel. They will leave Iraq for Strasbourg together with the French National Front delegation on Thursday [22 November], the day on which the city will host important meetings for the European Council to discuss the Gulf situation.

In a statement to INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY], Mr. Le Pen described Iraq's decision to allow its foreign guests to leave Iraq in batches as of 25 December as a humanitarian decision that will echo successfully in world public opinion, especially European public opinion.

The decision, he said, reflects the human nature of the Iraqi leadership, at the top of which is President Saddam Husayn, and his excellency's intelligent endeavor to reinforce the principles of brotherhood, friendship, and peace among nations, which yearn for the establishment of a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region.

Mr. Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the French National Front, said that Iraq and France hold identical views, especially regarding the need to establish a just, comprehensive peace in the region, and to spare it the danger of war and its destructive consequences. He pointed out that the United States dispatch of more forces to the lands of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] can only be explained in terms of its expansionist policy that aims at imposing its hegemony on the oil sources in this vital part of the world.

Mr. Jean-Marie Le Pen stressed that this U.S. policy, which is led by Bush himself, is a dangerous policy, and one that will create a new economic crisis that is very difficult to resolve.

He added that the United States should work to overcome this ordeal, which he described as critical and sensitive, by adopting the method of dialogue with Iraq, which has called for this over and over through President Saddam Husayn, and to abandon the use of force, which it is brandishing as an option to resolve the developments in the Gulf.

He added that the best solution to the developments in the region should be within the context of the Arab family itself. He also pointed to the need to convene an international peace conference sponsored by the United Nations according to its Charter to address all the problems of the region in the context of an indivisible whole. He said this is exactly in harmony with the initiative launched by President Saddam Husayn on 12 August, which, if applied, will spare the region the danger of war and its destructive consequences.

Confers With 'Aziz

JN1911200290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received today Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the French National Front, and his delegation. During the meeting, they exchanged views on the situation in the region and the means to find a peaceful and comprehensive solution to its problems. The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry's under secretary and the head of the Ministry's First Political Department.

Joint Statement Issued With Swiss Delegation

JN1811192590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Nov (INA)—The Swiss parliamentary delegation has stressed that an international peace conference must be held as soon as possible to discuss all the Middle East's problems and find solutions to them. This came in a joint statement issued here today on the results of the talks held by Swiss and National Assembly delegations.

The statement said that dialogue and negotiations are the only successful way to reach a peaceful, comprehensive, and just solution to the region's problems.

The two sides stated that they rejected war as a way to solve the region's problems, especially in the Arabian Gulf region. The two sides also declared that preventing medicine, food, and milk for children from reaching the Iraqi people violates international law and human rights. They also stressed the importance of exchanging visits to promote relations and exchange views.

The Iraqis expressed high appreciation to the Swiss Government and people for their humanitarian initiative to supply the Iraqi people with medicine.

It has been learned that the Swiss parliamentary delegation headed by Dr. Edgar Ohler is also made up of France Jujir, Mr. Masisu, Professor Jean Zigli, Dr. Erick Witistun, and Mr. Marx Ruf [all names as received].

Delegation Meets Ramadan

JN1811200490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, has stated that international legitimacy is against any decision or measure to deny nations food and medicine; by its unjust measures to impose a blockade on Iraq, the U.S. Administration has departed from international legitimacy. This, he said, proves its terrorist, aggressive, and provocative policy illustrated by American terrorists intercepting ships, blocking their movement, and searching them.

During his meeting with Swiss parliamentarian Edgar Ohler and his delegation, Ramadan said that Iraq's honest efforts toward peace, and clear and comprehensive peace initiatives, are a new weapon to be added to the defensive Arab force in the face of attempts to usurp Arab wealth and the independent Arab will.

Ramadan noted that the current crisis the Arab region is passing through as a result of the presence of American and NATO troops has exposed the unfounded allegations about democracy behind which the U.S. Administration is hiding; it has also made clear that peace-loving forces, which are continuing to ward off the disasters of war the United States wants in the region, have also proved that the forces of peace and good are stronger than the forces of evil, tyranny, and aggression.

Edgar Ohler stated that through various organizations and levels, the Swiss people, along with other peace-loving countries, will continue their peace efforts to prove to the world that working for peace is a human responsibility and that peace can be achieved through practical, serious, and honest positions and not through false slogans.

He also praised Iraq's peace positions and President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative, which constitutes a strong and fair basis to bring about a comprehensive peace in the region and which confirms Iraq's belief in peace and its strong desire to achieve this peace.

Saddam Agrees To Release Swiss

JN1911204490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1916 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn received a Swiss parliamentary delegation today led by member of parliament Dr. Edgar Ohler, head of the economic affairs organization [title as heard]. His excellency the leader president put Iraq's case on the Gulf situation, regional problems, and his call for dialogue in the interest of firm stability and a durable and comprehensive peace in the region. Leader President Saddam Husayn stressed the need for addressing the problems in the spirit of cause-and-effect. His excellency said the problems of the region are a result of the Palestinian problem remaining unresolved. His excellency stressed Iraq's concern for peace, and added that those who want peace must sort out all the problems in the region, and secure peace for the Palestinian people. His Excellency leader president Saddam Husayn added that the goal of peace for the Palestinian people is no longer merely a humanitarian issue, and that peace in Iraq and the region will remain fragile as long as the Palestinians are denied it. His excellency stressed that Iraq would like to see all UN resolutions on all the problems of the region applied uniformly and free from double standards. His Excellency the leader president said peace and stability will become a firm reality when the economies of the region attain a decent level of growth and social justice is enjoyed by all parties. Failing that, his excellency the president added, the situation will continue to be explosive, and short of a drastic solution to the Palestine question, the region will remain a fertile ground for surprises.

His excellency the president said that the Iraqis have unlimited capabilities to stand up to threats and aggression.

Dr. Edgar Ohler, for his part, expressed his happiness and that of his delegation for the opportunity afforded them to call on his excellency the leader president. He congratulated him on yesterday's humanitarian gesture by Iraq to allow foreign nationals out of the country. Dr. Ohler said the Swiss are a peaceful people just like the people of Iraq, and they cannot live in peace any more than the Iraqis can in an atmosphere of instability. Dr. Ohler said he shared Iraq's viewpoint that this region has more than one problem and that all must be addressed. He voiced his solidarity with the peoples of the region. We cannot look on as we see a people dying from hunger, nor can we bear to see a people denied medicines, Dr. Ohler added. His Excellency the president acceded to a request by Dr. Ohler that Swiss and other European nationals be allowed to leave Iraq, in recognition of the delegation's stance and their visit to Baghdad.

Denmark's Jorgensen Stresses Peace Through Talks

JN1711080490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Anker Jorgensen, former Danish prime minister and leader of the Danish Socialist Party, and the accompanying delegation left Baghdad this evening after an eight-day visit to Iraq.

Anker Jorgensen said that the initiative of leader President Saddam Husayn on 12 August aims at achieving a comprehensive peace in the region. In a statement to an INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY] correspondent, he affirmed the need to resolve all problems in the Arab region through peaceful means and dialogue, apart from foreign interference and resorting to military force, which would ignite a destructive war in the region.

Jorgensen, 16 Danish Depart

JN1611181690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 16 Nov (INA)—Sixteen Danish nationals left Baghdad today in the company of former Danish Prime Minister Anker Jorgensen. This measure comes pursuant to President Saddam Husayn's order to allow several Danish nationals from among the guests of the people of Iraq to leave or stay in Iraq in accordance with their desire. In statements to INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY], the departing Iraqi guests expressed their appreciation for the president, expressing their love for and pride in the peace-loving people of Iraq. [passage omitted]

British To Set Up 'Peace Camps' on Saudi Border

JN1611170590 Baghdad INA in English 1450 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] London, Nov 16, INA—A 7-member peace delegation today left here heading for Baghdad to hold peace camps on the Saudi-Kuwait borders.

In a statement before departure, members of the peace delegation said that they would place themselves as human shields to prevent the outbreak of any war in the region.

They added that there were so many anti-war persons would arrive in Baghdad and choose the proper positions in the possible area of war to establish their camps.

Greek, Australian 'Peace Messengers' Arrive

JN1811105190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Nov (INA)—A delegation of Greek peace messengers arrived in Baghdad last night on a visit to Iraq that will last for several days.

In a statement to INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY], Mrs. Loucina Aspenia [name as received], head of the Greek-Iraqi Friendship Society and head of the delegation, said that the purpose of the visit is to declare the Greek people's solidarity with the Iraqi people in confronting U.S. imperialism until victory is achieved and peace prevails in the region. She stressed that the Gulf crisis should be resolved through negotiations and peaceful dialogue within the Arab framework away from military interventions and threats, which only increase tension in the region.

She added that the delegation brought along a supply of baby milk and medicines as a modest gift from the Greek people to the children of Iraq until victory is achieved and the inhuman economic embargo on the Iraqi children and people is broken.

A delegation of Australian peace messengers also arrived in Baghdad last night on a visit of several days to Iraq.

In a statement to INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY], Khalid Zayd, imam of the mosque of Saddam Husayn's Islamic Center in Sidney and head of the delegation, said that the delegation represents the Arab group in Australia. He stressed that the majority of Australians support holding negotiations and peaceful dialogue to resolve the crisis and oppose military interventions and threats in order to spare the region the disasters of a destructive war.

Meet With Official

JN1911144690 Baghdad INA in English 1145 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 19, INA—Mr 'Adnan Dawud Salman, chairman of the Friendship, Peace and Solidarity Organization met here last night the Greek peace delegation headed by Mrs. Loucina Aspenia, [name as received] chairwoman of the Greek-Iraqi Friendship Association.

Mr. Salman confirmed that at the time Iraq believes in peace, it would thwart any aggressive attempt and foil the Zionist-imperialist plots targetting its historic rights and culture accomplishments.

The visiting delegation expressed full solidarity with Iraqi people and hailed President Saddam Husayn's initiative on August 12 that indicated the suitable resolutions to all problems of the region and criticized the U.S.-inspired hasty resolutions adopted by the United Nations concerning the Gulf crisis.

On the other level, Mr. Salman received here yesterday the Arab-origin Australian peace delegation currently visiting Iraq and reviewed the latest developments on the Gulf and Arab arenas.

Mr. Salman confirmed Iraq's insistence on facing all kinds of aggression aiming at hampering the development process of the Arab nation.

The delegation expressed solidarity of 400 thousand Arab-origin Australian citizens with the Iraqis and satisfaction over the good care the delegation received from President Husayn.

It confirmed that the Australian public opinion strongly condemned the foreign interference in the region and stressed the importance of the direct dialogue in solving all problems of the region peacefully.

Further on Daniel Ortega Visit to Baghdad

Comments on Meeting Saddam

PA1711012490 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 16 Nov 90 pp 1, 5

[Text] Baghdad—Last night, after meeting with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said it is urgent that the UN Security Council issue a statement regarding the resolutions on the use of force in the Gulf and reaffirm that those resolutions do not authorize any country to unilaterally conduct military action in the region.

For almost two hours, Ortega and Husayn reviewed the crisis that threatens to unleash a large-scale military conflict in the Persian Gulf and in the Middle East.

"It is necessary to avoid a military solution, which has never been approved by the United Nations," Ortega told BARRICADA.

Before his meeting with Husayn, Ortega—who is accompanied by former Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto—met with Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan, with whom he also discussed the need for an overall solution of the regional problems.

Today Ortega will continue his contacts with high Iraqi Government officials to analyze possible initiatives to support a peaceful solution of the crisis. However, Ortega did not specify what those initiatives could be.

Ortega, who is coordinator of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] Executive Commission, stressed that "this problem not only affects Iraq and other countries in the region, but also Third World nations."

In that regard, he said that there is growing fear in Europe and Latin America that the United States may interpret the UN Security Council resolutions as a green light to carry out a unilateral military action.

Ortega noted that this is a north-south conflict, where a superpower believes it owns resources it considers strategic and acts contrary to international law. Commenting on a recent statement by U.S. Secretary of State Baker, who said that Husayn should not be allowed "to sit on the industrialized world's vital economic interests," Ortega said that Baker thus unveiled the real objectives of the military deployment in the region, which have nothing to do with Kuwait's sovereignty or integrity.

The United States initially used that argument to justify the presence of its troops in the Gulf.

"We must strengthen and defend total respect for international law and reject double moral standard," Ortega stressed.

Ortega and Husayn also discussed the upcoming Arab summit convoked by Morrocan King Hassan II. They agreed that prior consultations should be held to guarantee its success. They also agreed on the need for an overall solution to the crisis, which requires giving priority attention to the Palestinian issue.

Praises Saddam Desire For Peace

JN1611170190 Baghdad INA in English 1530 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 16, INA—Nicaraguan ex-president Daniel Ortega has lauded the brave and principled stance of President Saddam Husayn for establishing lasting and overall peace in the region.

In a press conference attended by the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY INA and Arab and international TV networks and press correspondents, Mr. Ortega said that President Husayn had strong desire for engineering a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region, and at the same time unwavering determination to defend Iraq.

Mr. Ortega added that the current crisis in the Gulf created adverse effects on the world, especially the Third World countries.

He further said that the international order should be applied on all on equal footing, referring that the measures imposed on Iraq had aggravated tension in the region.

Mr. Ortega confirmed that the United States had big opportunity for realising permanent peace by pulling out its troops from the region.

Concludes Visit, Departs

JN1711151290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1242 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Nov (INA)—Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and his delegation left Baghdad today after a four-day visit to Iraq.

Ortega told INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY] that during his meeting with President Saddam Husayn he found the president's position very clear in terms of his full desire to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

He said the U.S. President should understand that peoples of the world reject the policy of hegemony and domination and that peace and dialogue constitute the way to solve all problems.

He was seen off at the airport by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and by Foreign Ministry officials.

Mauritanian, Yemeni Information Officials Depart

JN1611135690 Baghdad INA in English 1310 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 16, INA—Mauritanian Information Minister Mohamed Lemine Ould Ahmed this afternoon left Baghdad winding up a several-day visit to Iraq during which he took part in meeting of information ministers in some Arab countries.

In a statement to INA the Mauritanian minister affirmed that this meeting in this grave stage aimed at disclosing dimensions of the vehement imperialist-Zionist conspiracy targetting the Arab nation to the Arab and world public opinion.

He referred to developments of the situation in the Gulf that should be resolved within the Arab fold away from all sorts of foreign interventions that as would escalate tension in the region.

He was seen off at the airport by Mr. Latif Nusayyif Jasim minister of information and culture.

On the other hand Deputy Minister of Cultural and Information in the Republic of Yemen 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Akwa' today left here after taking part in the meeting in question concluded two days ago.

In a statement to INA, he said that this meeting had adopted positive and fruitful outcomes centered on importance of media organs in mobilizing the Arab public opinion to counter all challenges and perils besetting security and sovereignty of the Arab nation.

He said that President Saddam Husayn's initiative released on August 12 was great one and helpful for resolving all region's problems leading of which the Palestinian cause. [sentence as received]

U.S. Public Said Demanding Bush Accountability

JN1711114590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 17 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has stressed that Bush's conduct and his insistence on war and aggression constitute an obstinacy that will lead him only to failure and loss.

In an article today the paper says: U.S. society has begun to express not only concern with Bush's fever of aggressive statements, but also growing demands for calling Bush to legal and judicial account. These calls are not confined to American clergyman, but have also reached the Congress itself through a network of lawyers, intellectuals, the peace movement, and humanitarian societies.

The paper adds: Furthermore, there is now a challenge being made by the families of the U.S. guests in Iraq, who are exhibiting an intelligent response to President Saddam Husayn's noble invitation to them to visit their sons or friends in Iraq, and see firsthand the good hospitality they are enjoying. [passage omitted]

Thatcher Playing Role in 'American Plot'

JN1911191290 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 17 Nov 90 p 3

[Article by the "Political Section": "Thatcher ... a Satellite or Agent?"]

[Text] By attacking Iraq and beating the drums of war against it, the British prime minister is trying primarily to evade her internal and European impasse and give vent to inherited racism toward the Arabs in general and the Iraqis in particular.

We do not attach importance to the threats of Britain's exhausted old woman, since what she is doing does not add to her role in the Gulf crisis and she and her forces will remain mere tails of Bush's cloak, which he borrowed from Fahd, the betrayer of the two holy mosques. The remaining question is why Thatcher is concentrating on Iraq day and night and daily blaring claims and threats against it with an impudence unprecedented in diplomacy.

It is obvious that Thatcher is looking for an external issue in order to achieve gains first within Britain and second within the European home. She wants to rescue her Conservative Party leadership, which is in jeopardy due to her misbehavior in the party affairs and her individualistic party decisions. This led to deterioration in the party's popularity among the British people and has seriously threatened the party and Thatcher with loss of power and being replaced by the opposition Labor Party, whose increased popularity has been confirmed by opinion polls.

On the European level—and the issue here is more serious than some may imagine—Thatcher continues to block European unity, which is scheduled for 1992, and exerts more efforts to obstruct it by creating contradictory British stands toward this unity. She is depicting matters as if Britain would be harmed by European unity and would lose its independence in the concerns of the continent.

Refuting Thatcher's European policy does not require an effort on our side, as European and British politicians from within and outside her party, including opposition and independent circles, have refuted her claims and censured her immoral way of dealing with the continental leaders during their recent meeting.

The serious thing to which we referred is why Thatcher is doing all this against the European unity. It is clear that she is playing a suspect role in an American plot against the continent's unity, because such unity will lead to the emergence of a new political and economic world bloc. The United States fears such a bloc for several reasons, the most important of which is that this bloc will share with the United States its international role. This means that the American single-handed treatment of the world will come to an end with the emergence of the European bloc.

European unity will also turn the continent into a tremendous economic power that will not only compete with the American economy but also surpass it. It will also make the dollar lose its world importance and expose the U.S. economic deficit, which thrives on the strength of the dollar and its circulation in stock markets and world trade transactions, something which has allowed and continues to allow Washington to maneuver and conspire according to its interests by lowering and raising the value of the dollar.

Admitting rather than ignoring the fact that Thatcher is an agent and not a satellite of the United States requires courage and nerve. Otherwise, let the "informed ones" explain to us why she is taking this strange and foolhardy stand in support of Bush against Iraq and why this fretful attitude toward European unity. They will then have to explain to us Britain's interest in all that Thatcher is doing. These are only questions seeking answers.

'Aziz Refutes Claims on Nuclear Capability

JN1911133890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1228 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Nov (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has refuted the false claims made by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker regarding Iraq's goal to possess the technology for making nuclear weapons.

In a statement to INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY] today, he said the statements made by Baker have added new objectives to the existing aggressive U.S. objectives in the region. President Bush did the same in the article he wrote in NEWSWEEK magazine. 'Aziz emphasized that Baker's statement about Iraq was made in an irresponsible manner. He made claims that are not based on any proof but were made sensationally for counter-propaganda purposes and to justify the aggressive U.S. policy in the region.

The foreign minister added that the U.S. Administration is now finding that the pretexts it is using to justify the aggression are not sufficiently convincing to public opinion in the United States and the world. It is, therefore, adding new pretexts every day, thus revealing the dilemma in which it finds itself. Proceeding from this perspective, the U.S. secretary of state discussed the dangers of his claim that Iraq is making concerted efforts to possess the necessary technology for manufacturing nuclear weapons, without providing any evidence to confirm these claims, which the U.S. Administration had been accustomed to doing since before 2 August.

Tariq 'Aziz explained that the U.S. secretary of state knows that Israel and not Iraq is the one which possesses nuclear weapons in addition to chemical and biological weapons. He pointed out that the United States is one of the main countries helping Israel in this, and that although Baker knows this fact, which the entire world also knows, he did not issue warnings to Israel, which is occupying the land of Palestine and the land of the Arabs and has been threatening security and peace in the region for many decades.

The foreign minister affirmed that Iraq has, more than once, announced through President Saddam Husayn that it is ready, within the framework of a settlement of all the Middle East problems including the Palestinian cause, to discuss the liquidation of all mass destruction weapons as part of the process to attain comprehensive and complete peace.

He added that Iraq reiterates its readiness now to achieve this objective within the framework we have spoken about. Tariq 'Aziz said that such U.S. statements reveal in a disgusting way the dual, selective, and aggressive U.S. course in dealing with world issues, including the issues of our region, whether issues of technology or issues of war and peace.

The Iraqi foreign minister said that statements by Baker and Bush disclose day after day the false slogans the U.S. Administration raises about human rights and equality among states in accordance with the UN Charter, not to mention slogans on freedom and democracy, which are slogans the United States uses for the purpose of propaganda and deception.

Mubarak Grants U.S. Military Base in Red Sea

JN1911110890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0905 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Nov (INA)—Reports have said that Husni's regime has given the United States the Ras Banas base in the Red Sea to become a major U.S. military base in the region.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH published today cites Palestinian sources as saying that Husni granted this base in return for U.S. Congress' approval to cancel all Egypt's military debts and not just freeze them. These debts amount to $7.5 billion with the interest on them. It noted that at present the base consists of a group of U.S. military advisors, fighter planes, and a new radar network.

Pilot's Defection Prompted U.S. Presence

JN1911145290 Baghdad INA in English 1245 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Khartoum, Nov 19, INA—The Saudi military pilot who sought asylum in Sudan said his defection was prompted by the Saudi regime's concession of military command of foreign forces to the United States.

INA correspondent quoted informed sources as saying that defection of the Saudi pilot was also due to banning all Saudi military men from going to the eastern parts of Saudi because of the presence of American forces there.

The Saudi pilot flew in the Sudanese territories with his F-15 plane last week and requested political asylum.

Condemns Shamir's Sea-to-River Remarks

JN2011062390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2158 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Nov (INA)—The international affairs editor of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has commented on the recent remarks by Yitzhaq Shamir in which he said that the borders of his entity extend from the sea to the Jordan River, saying: Now emerges the truthfulness of Iraqi warnings and statements that Zionism does not heed international law and that it holds in disdain the resolutions of the United Nations as well as those of other international organizations.

The editor added: The enemy prime minister's statement, in these circumstances, confirms the great significance of the need to link all regional problems and to tackle them in accordance with the same standards, taking into account the historical background of each problem. His Excellency President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative came at a time when the Arab nation desperately needed to expose all the parties that pursue double-standard policies and deal with international issues on the basis of two different criteria. This wise initiative has revealed the falsehood of the slogans which they upheld regarding human rights, and international legitimacy. It also exposed the other hollow slogans which have been exposed by Iraq through its courageous and principled positions and also through its affirmation of the need to resolve all regional problems, foremost among which is the Palestine question.

The international affairs editor affirmed that if Yitzhaq Shamir's mind had not been at ease regarding the positions of the unjust powers at the UN Security Council led by the United States and about the treasonous stands of some Arab rulers such as Husni and Fahd, he would not have made these statements, which have confirmed Iraqi warnings, in these explosive circumstances.

Concluding his comments, the editor condemned and denounced these statements and said that they show disdain for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to repatriation and self-determination.

Mubarak Advice To Postpone War Ridiculed

JN1911093590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Nov (INA)—A Foreign Ministry spokesman has ridiculed Husni's proposal to postpone the U.S. military aggression for three months.

The spokesman said in a statement to INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY] today that we cannot imagine that he who betrays his people and nation can be qualified to give such advice or directives, or to play this type of role. This is because the betrayer has nothing left but to be a base dependent and agent of those who decide the course and method. This is the case with Husni and the likes of him after he betrayed the people of Egypt in their nationalism and pan-Arabism and after he betrayed the nation in its present and whatever it seeks for its future.

The spokesman said that Husni, as is usual with unsuccessful actors with a complex, makes this sort of statement before the people every now and then merely to justify his existence.

The spokesman noted that Husni assumes that the United States is the one who is deciding the course of events. Husni ignores the will of the nation manifested in the mujahidin, strugglers, and good people who reject betrayal and a life of disgrace which the foreign tyrant wishes for them.

The spokesman affirmed that the Arab nation will determine its own future and not the United States and its small agents, the likes of Husni.

Ramadan Says Ground Will Swallow 'Zionists'

JN1511165390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, today received Arab traveller Fu'ad Sulayman 'Ali.

The first deputy prime minister said that Palestine will return, and God will make the ground swallow up the Zionists because of their injustice, tyranny, and crimes against the sons of Palestine—as he made the ground swallow up the former rulers of Kuwait because of the conspiracies and injustice they committed against the Arabs.

Ramadan added that Palestine will be liberated by sacrifice and preparation for liberation, following the exposure of the false slogans raised by the agent rulers, America's agents, who pawned their will and the fate of the Arabs with the U.S. Administration.

The first deputy prime minister declared that the people who defend their rights with stones and rise up against the occupation, which is armed with the most sophisticated weapons, will triumph. In addition, all honest brothers throughout the Arab arena will stand at their side, after they have removed the dust of despair piled up on them by the agent Arab rulers, and have declared their readiness for jihad and martyrdom for the sake of the usurped Arab rights.

Arab traveler Fu'ad Sulayman 'Ali noted that all Arab masses stand under the banner of President Saddam Husayn, because he is the only Arab leader in the modern age who has volunteered to defend Arab dignity and regain usurped rights. He is the only brave Arab leader who said "No" to America, "No" to the Zionist occupation, and "No" to humiliation, subjugation, and the theft of Arab resources. The Arab traveler stated that the Arabs will achieve a historic victory under the leadership of the brave Arab knight, President Saddam Husayn.

Zaire Warned Iraq Will Act Against 'Hostility'

JN1811173590 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has strongly denounced the statement made by the Zairian foreign minister, who said that he supports the American plan to have the Security Council issue a resolution justifying American military aggression against Iraq.

The foreign minister said that such a statement is akin to a Zairian Government declaration of war against Iraq, and that Zaire should take into account that Iraq will take appropriate measures at present and in the future against that unjustified hostility. He also said that the Zairian Government should understand that the Arab nation will not sit back with folded arms when a state announces its hostile intentions toward an Arab state in this manner.

Atomic Energy Agency Tours Nuclear Installations

JN1911135390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1243 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Nov (INA)—Two officials from the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] are currently conducting their perioic tour of Iraqi nuclear installations, all of which are subject to IAEA guarantees.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahid al-Saji, the national inspector for the Iraqi nuclear installations, told INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY] that as of 18 November the two inspectors have been carrying out their regular and full inspection of the installations and the nuclear materials present there.

He added that the inspectors' visit is the second of its kind this year. He said the IAEA would announce the results of the inspection at a later time.

The IAEA inspectors will continue their tour until the 22nd of this month.

Agreement With Iran on Prisoner Release Announced

JN1911105290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Nov (INA)—An official spokesman at the Foreign Ministry has stated the following to INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY]:

During the Iranian delegation's visit to Baghdad on 14 and 15 November 1990, agreement was reached by the Iraqi and Iranian sides to solve all problems concerning prisoners already convicted or those whose cases have been referred to the judiciary from both sides and to return them to their respective countries. In implementation of this agreement, the Revolution Command Council has decided to pardon all convicted Iranian prisoners and those whose cases were referred to the judiciary, a total of 239 Iranian prisoners. They will leave Baghdad for Tehran by air on Wednesday 21 November 1990. According to the agreement, it is expected that Iran will release 79 convicted Iraqi prisoners or prisoners whose cases have been referred to the judiciary.

The spokesman said the Iranian side promised to release 200 Iraqi prisoners daily starting 22 November 1990. The return of Iraqi prisoners from Tehran to Baghdad will continue by air at an average of 200 prisoners per day. They will be taken directly to their families by the responsible authorities.

European Red Cross Societies Dispatch Medicine

JN1911143090 Baghdad INA in English 1135 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Amsterdam, Nov 19, INA—In response to an appeal from the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and as a joint venture the Danish, Dutch and Swedish Red Cross societies have decided to despatch a consignment of medicines to Iraq.

This consignment which consists mainly of medicaments for the treatment of chronic diseases, heart diseases, cancer hypertonia etc. is going to be delivered to the Iraqi Red Crescent.

Due to delivery problems the consignment will be divided into three shipments, the first is supposed to have taken place on 17th November from Amsterdam and the following two flights a few weeks later.

These shipments of medicines to Iraq are a result of negotiations between the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Geneva and the Iraqi Red Crescent in the beginning of September.

The total value of the shipments is about 240,000 US dollars. The cost will be divided between the Danish, Dutch and Swedish Red Cross societies.

Health Minister Attacks Economic Sanctions

JN1011180290 Baghdad INA in English 1710 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 10, INA—Minister of Health 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id today met Antonio Mario Rotundo, chairman of Friendship and Peace Organization in Argentina.

The minister confirmed that brutality of the economic blockade being imposed on Iraq lies in preventing baby milk, medicine, vaccination and food contradictory to recommendations of the childhood conference recently held in New York which asserted on the necessity of reducing rate of mortality.

The minister referred to the U.S. troops that invaded the land of Najd and Hijaz [Saudi Arabia] which had no relation with civilization of the 20th century and the simplest humanitarian and democratic rules by which they were bragging.

Mr. Rotundo voiced preparedness to send quantities of baby milk, medicine and vaccination to the Iraqi competent authorities for joining Iraqis in breaking the inhumane blockade imposed on the Iraqi people.

Saddam Sends Birthday Wishes to King Husayn

JN1411090690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a cable of congratulations to His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the occasion of his majesty's birthday. The cable reads:

On the occasion of Your Majesty's birthday, we are pleased to extend to your majesty our warm congratulations and sincerest brotherly feelings, wishing you on this happy occasion happiness and good health and to the fraternal Jordanian Arab people continued might and pride under the wing of your wise leadership. We pray to God to grant you success in your noble efforts for the good of the Arab nation and its objectives, and in safeguarding its dignity, pride, and independence. We also pray to God Almighty to assist us to carry out what our pan-Arab duty dictates on us; namely, to safeguard the honor of the nation, its purity, and its loftiness in the face of those who harbor malice, evil, and aggression toward it. We wish you from the depth of our heart a long life.

Saddam Husayn Cables 'Arafat on Anniversary

JN1511125390 Baghdad INA in English 1220 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 15, INA—President Saddam Husayn sent a congratulatory telegram to president Yasir 'Arafat of the state of Palestine on the second anniversary of proclamation of state of Palestine.

In the telegram President Husayn hailed the Palestinian people's steadfastness in the face of the Zionist aggressors till achieving their great aspirations, wishing them victory.

Citizens Asked To Control Use of Drinking Water

JN1211151190 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 9 Nov 90 p 4

[Text] The Ministry of Local Government has called on citizens to cooperate with it to control the use of clean water and not to use it in other ways or for other purposes.

The Ministry said that the State Enterprise for water, sewage, and affiliated departments in the governorates have noticed these practices and carelessness regarding drinking water, and using it for watering domestic gardens and washing cars and sidewalks.

Aftermath of Shamir Sea-to-River Statement

Shamir Explains Remarks

TA1911175090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] The prime minister's remarks last night at Metzudat Ze'ev [Likud headquarters] regarding our commitment to Eretz Yisra'el from the sea to the Jordan River, and similar comments he made today before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, raised furious reaction among the Knesset members. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports:

During today's debate at the committee, the prime minister said—at least inasmuch as we were able to glean from the press briefing—the following, and I quote: I believe Eretz Yisra'el should be from the river to the sea, and that it should have a large Jewish concentration, end of quote.

These and his remarks last night have aroused angry comment. Ya'ir Tzaban of MAPAM [United Workers Party] reminded Shamir of his earlier remarks about the need for a large Eretz Yisra'el to accommodate a large immigration wave—remarks which resulted in a sharp U.S. reaction and forced the government to send the letter in which it pledged that new immigrants would not be settled beyond the Green Line. Ra'anan Kohen from the Alignment said: The prime minister has not learned his lesson. 'Imanu'el Sussman [of the Alignment] said: Shamir is regressing to the days of his leadership of LEHI [pre-state underground faction that splintered off from the Irgun] and is issuing statements befitting an underground leader, not a prime minister bearing national—rather than nationalistic—responsibility.

Upon leaving the session, Mr. Shamir explained the following to the press:

[Begin Shamir recording] First of all, what did I say? A memorial ceremony for the 40 people who had served in the Knesset or the Jewish Agency and are no longer with us was held at Metzudat Ze'ev last night. A plaque in their honor was unveiled there, and I—as well as others—spoke. I said that the messages that these people left us were the following, and I gave the breakdown: Eretz Yisra'el from the sea to the river, and massive aliyah to concentrate the Jewish people—in its entirety or the majority thereof—in Eretz Yisra'el. That is all. That is what I said. [end recording]

Later, Mr. Shamir added: This is my dream. I believe one day it will come true.

Further on Shamir Explanation

TA1911173990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] The following declaration was made yesterday by the prime minister at Metzudat Ze'ev [Likud headquarters] in Tel Aviv:

[Begin recording] [Shamir] Some of those we commemorated today at the entrance to Bet Jabotinsky died before Jerusalem was united and before Judaea, Samaria, Gaza, and the Golan Heights were liberated. They left us a clear message, to which they committed us: To preserve Eretz Yisra'el from the sea to the Jordan River for the coming generations, for the large aliyah, and for the Jewish people, all or most of whom will concentrate in this country, Eretz Yisra'el.

[Reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, in your speech you recalled that those commemorated today left a clear message to which you are committed: to preserve Eretz Yisra'el from the sea to the Jordan River, as well as a large aliyah that is meant to settle it. Is that what you meant?

[Shamir] I did not say to settle; I said Eretz Yisra'el from the sea to the Jordan River and a large aliyah.

[Reporter] Does that mean in which to settle the immigrants?

[Shamir] There is no connection. [end recording]

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 19 November in a page 1 report by Sarah Honig and Michal Yudelman adds: "Asked if he is again returning to the theme of a Great Eretz Yisra'el needed for the mass aliyah," Shamir stressed that "there is no connection whatever between our maintaining the territorial integrity of Eretz Yisra'el between the sea and the Jordan River—which is a vital security necessity for the State of Israel—and the mass aliyah, which is the fulfillment of the great Zionist dream."]

Says No Reason To Anger U.S.

TA2011054290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Excerpts] At the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, the prime minister came under fire for his comments on the land of Israel. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] Members of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee accused Prime Minister Shamir of painting a much rosier picture of the state of affairs in this country than really exists. There was criticism of the prime minister's comments Sunday [18 November] at a Likud gathering on an Israel that would span from the Mediterranean to the Jordan; of course, therefore also including the territories. Shamir said that he was stating nothing new, that such an Israel and one that absorbs masses of Soviet Jews is both a dream of the Likud and for himself personally. Afterwards, the prime minister said he saw no reason why his statement should draw anger in Washington or in other capitals.

[Shamir] It's nothing to do with U.S.-Israel relations. People in the United States know very well what are the views of Mr. Shamir.

[Ze'ev] [passage omitted] While the premier spoke of improving ties with the Soviets, he said there has been no movement on direct flights and no implementation of

the agreement to upscale relations to the full consular level. He said the mayor of Moscow will be arriving in Israel this week.

The prime minister also accused Absorption Minister Yitzhaq Peretz of overstating the figures of those Soviet immigrants who are not Jewish. Shamir said he checked with the Interior Ministry here in Israel, and only four percent of those immigrating are not Jewish. He said the absorption minister should not have made such comments publicly—certainly not while in the Soviet Union. [end recording]

Foreign Ministry 'Amazement'

TA2011120690 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Nov 90 p A1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar and news agencies]

[Excerpt] The statements made by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir regarding an "Eretz Yisra'el from the sea till the Jordan River" may cause new difficulties on the matter of direct flights from the Soviet Union and on the issue of the $400 million immigrant housing loan guarantees. This was the opinion last night of senior political sources in Jerusalem. The U.S. delegation is scheduled to arrive in Israel at the end of the week in order to finalize the issue of the guarantees, after its arrival was postponed several times because of similar statements. Shamir's remarks could also harm the chances of additional immigrant loan guarantees, the sources added. They expressed concern that Shamir's statement may also hinder U.S. efforts to secure a majority in support of the compromise proposal on the dispatch of UN Assistant Secretary General Jean-Claude Aimee to Israel. Senior Foreign Ministry officials yesterday reacted with amazement and anger to Shamir's remarks, which revived the linkage between the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and aliyah. They pointed out that Shamir's statements were made but a short time after an Israeli diplomatic offensive had managed to mend the damage caused by similar remarks made by Shamir in the past. [passage omitted]

Sharon Vows To Build 'All Over' Jerusalem

TA2011115690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon says a special effort is being made to build additional housing in East Jerusalem. Sharon said that of 17,000 new units planned for Jerusalem, 15,000 are to be built over what was once called the Green Line. He spoke last night to reporter Miryam Herschlag.

[Begin recording] [Sharon] There is no Green Line in Jerusalem, just as there is no Green Line elsewhere, but particularly in Jerusalem. There is no Green Line, Jerusalem is united, the capital for the last 3,000 years and the capital of the State of Israel. We are going to build all over Jerusalem without any distinction, and no doubt we are going to make a major effort and a special effort to build in East Jerusalem.

[Herschlag] Are you not concerned that this will draw more of the same kind of international criticism that Israel has been receiving?

[Sharon] We do not interfere when the United States builds new neighborhoods in Washington, D.C. We never said anything when Great Britain decided to enlarge London with new, modern neighborhoods. I never said anything about France adding beautiful neighborhoods in Paris, and we are not going to accept any criticism when it comes to the capital of the Jews, Jerusalem.

[Herschlag] Will this jeopardize the $400 million guaranteed loan from the United States?

[Sharon] Why should it jeopardize that? We never even for one minute said that we are not going to build in East Jerusalem. We emphasized from the first day, and we said where we are going to settle newcomers. We said the Galilee, in the center, a major effort in the Negev, and a major effort in Jerusalem. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 20 November in a similar report by Yehuda Golan on page A2 quotes Sharon as saying that according to his ministry's plan-,"some 500,000 housing units will be set up in the coming five years. In Jerusalem itself, 5,000 units will be built annually."

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 20 November in a page 11 report by Tzvi Singer also reports Sharon's remarks and adds that Sharon said that some 2,300 apartments are in various stages of construction in Rekhes Shu'fat and are destined for ultraorthodox Jews. In two building sites in the Har Homa area, 7,000 apartments are under construction, while the area can accommodate some 20,000 apartments. Sharon said: "Jerusalem's boundaries must be extended. It may not be possible to implement this immediately, but Jerusalem will have to be a city of 1 million for it to remain the eternal capital of the Jewish people."]

Shamir on UN Envoy, Soviet Aliyah Figures

TA1911144890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that some 700,000 Jews are listed as candidates for aliyah in the USSR. Some 250,000 Jews have already presented requests for exit permits and will leave for Israel within six to seven months. In the next two years, between 300,000 and 400,000 immigrants are expected annually from the USSR. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the data was presented in a report to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Mr. Shamir pointed out that Soviet policymaking circles are beginning to set up commercial ties with Israel. He also said

that between 500 and 600 Ethiopian Jews would make aliyah in the next month or so.

In the diplomatic field, the prime minister said there has been progress in the contacts with Washington on the proposal to receive an emissary on behalf of the UN secretary general. In Shamir's view, implementation of the proposal is drawing closer.

On the internal situation, the prime minister said that the people of Israel live under constant pressure. Each day brings new worries and misfortunes, but he said it was not necessary to present the facts in an unbearable light, and he urged people to act with restraint.

Levi, Perez de Cuellar Agree on UN Emissary

TA2011055690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] The emissary of the UN secretary general, Jean-Claude Aimee, will come to Israel in the next few days. This was agreed at a meeting in Paris between UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and Foreign Minister David Levi. Perez de Cuellar told the Foreign Minister that he will inform the UN Security Council of his decision. He made it clear that he has accepted Israel's decision to receive an envoy, not connected to the UN Security Council resolution that criticized Israel over the Temple Mount killings.

Later today, in New York, the secretary general will hold talks with President Hayim Herzog, and our reporter says the two are likely to discuss Jean-Claude Aimee's visit.

Rabin on Lebanon, Shamir Remarks, Jordan Border

TA2011100690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Yitzhaq Rabin has said that initiated operations, occasionally encompassing air, naval, or ground forces, are necessary to confront terrorist activities in Lebanon. He does not believe that the situation in Lebanon has changed.

MK Rabin commented on Prime Minister Shamir's remarks regarding Eretz Yisra'el and termed it a sorry statement, adding that a prime minister in Israel should know when to keep his mouth shut. Mr. Rabin pointed out that Israel must not supply pretexts to weaken the anti-Iraqi coalition.

As for Deputy Science Minister Ge'ula Kohen's proposal to establish a security zone east of the Jordan River, Rabin dismissed it as utter nonsense.

Chief of Staff on 'Defensive Concept' in Lebanon

TA2011095890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] The chief of staff and commander of the Northern Command this morning debriefed the paratroopers who participated in last night's clash in southern Lebanon. An officer in the paratroopers, 23-year-old Captain Yaron Yogev, and four terrorists were killed in the incident.

The chief of staff said that in light of the unique situation in Lebanon, Israel's defensive concept is to confront the terrorists as far away from the border as possible. This time the operation took place on land, while at other times the Israeli Air Force and Navy have participated. The chief of staff asserted that the operation had achieved its goals. Chief of Staff Shomron extended his condolences to the family of the slain officer and to his fellow paratroopers.

The soldiers later met with Defense Minister Moshe Arens and briefed him on the incident. The minister told the troops that the operation was important and is part of a chain of actions we have conducted and will continue to implement in order to secure quiet on the northern border. The minister noted the heavy price that was paid last night.

Developments Concerning Jordan Relations, Border Officers Disciplined

TA1611160590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron has accepted the report issued by the investigatory team set up following the infiltration of an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] position early last Tuesday [13 November]. Our military affairs reporter Karmela Menashe has the details:

As a result of the check conducted by the team, Lt. Gen. Shomron decided to verbally reprove Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Central Command, to reprimand the commander of the Jordan Valley Brigade, and to put the commander of the company in charge of the area on disciplinary trial. The chief of staff accepted the report issued by the investigatory team headed by a colonel which was set up to look into the infiltration of an IDF position in the Jordan Valley.

The check shows that the security arrangements and standing orders followed by the Army position were insufficient, considering earlier warnings and previous incidents in the region.

Lt. Gen. Shomron said today that regional defense troops can successfully carry out the defensive tasks requested of them. These soldiers, the chief of staff said, have proved their worth in daily activities and in watching over settlements along the border, and there is no doubt that they will continue to do their job just as well.

The chief of staff added that the Army evaluates all its missions, including those along the Jordanian border, on a regular basis, and it adapts its activities and resources to this evaluation.

A senior military source said that Jordan is not yet Lebanon, and that the Jordanian Army tries very hard to

prevent infiltrations into Israel. We occasionally have infiltrations from the Jordanian border of individual soldiers—in the latest case they were policemen—but not of organized terror squads as in Lebanon or as was the case in the Jordan Valley in the 1970's. The situation is not the same, the source continued, and the defense establishment will adapt itself if the character of the infiltrations changes.

In the meantime, what took place at the IDF position near the Adam Bridge is described as a serious incident and a disgrace. It is inconceivable that a terrorist should manage to infiltrate an IDF position, sources say.

Jordan Affirms 'Calm' Policy

TA1611084790 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 16 Nov 90 p 2

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Jordan has relayed a message to Israel in which it claims that the incidents that have occurred recently along the border conflict with its traditional policy of maintaining a calm and secure border. The Jordanian announcement came in reaction to the sharp warnings issued by Prime Minister Shamir and Defense Minister Arens this week.

Jordan says that despite its efforts, both individuals and fanatic organizations attempt from time to time to infiltrate into Israel or to open fire at Israeli targets. Jordan repeats that it is taking all the measures to prevent such cases and to bring the people involved in such attempts to trial.

Jerusalem believes that the Jordanian message coincides with the king's policy of preserving quiet. At the same time, there are clear indications that his grip on the reins is loosening both inside the kingdom and along the Israeli confrontation line. According to information that has reached Israel, the PLO's Force 17 has resumed its activity in Jordan. Israel attributes some of the latest attacks along the Jordanian border to Force 17.

Shamir on Election of Speaker

TA1811174290 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Israel has delivered messages to Jordan expressing concern over the increased number of infiltrations into Israeli territory. These remarks were made today by Foreign Minister David Levi after the cabinet session. Defense elements made clear in the cabinet discussion that the Jordanian Army continues taking energetic steps to foil the infiltrations.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said a short while ago: We will stay alert to assure our security. His remarks were made in reaction to the election of a fundamentalist Muslim as speaker of the Jordanian parliament.

[Begin Shamir recording] There are negative phenomena in Jordan. Jordan is undergoing a process of hysteria and Muslim fanaticism, as are many Arab countries. I hope that after the Gulf crisis is over, they will come to their senses. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Levi on Infiltration, Stability

JN1811161890 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1030 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by political affairs reporter (Yehudit Budet) at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem, carried within the "Mid-Day Events" program; date not given; Levi and (Budet) in Hebrew with passage by passage translation into Arabic—recorded]

[Text] [(Budet)] With me is Foreign Minister David Levi. The cabinet today was presented with briefs on the security situation, including infiltration from Jordan. I asked Mr. Levi if the growing number of infiltrations presents a new situation.

[Levi] Every infiltration and any attempt to change the status quo worries Israel and requires that we take all the measures needed to prevent attacks. Our front with Jordan is the longest of our borders with the Arabs. It has been quiet for many years thanks to vigilance both on Jordan's part and on ours. Of course as for us, we want to see a stable, unchanging situation.

[(Budet)] Will the government take further new measures?

[Levi] Whatever new measures are taken must involve Jordan and ourselves. Jordan must realize that both of us stand to be detrimentally affected. For our part we have to make it clear that ours will be a firm reaction, if only by way of deterrence. But most importantly, we expect Jordan to curb these infiltration attempts. We wish stability for the Jordanian regime, and for calm to prevail along our common border.

[(Budet)] Is King Husayn facing a new situation in his country? Two [as heard] days ago, a Muslim Brotherhood member was voted speaker of the House of Representatives.

[Levi] I will not speculate on Jordan's domestic situation. This is an internal Jordanian affair. As for stability, this does affect us. What is happening in the Gulf has a real impact on the situation in Jordan. The king will have to bear in mind that stability is up to him, and he is aware of what is happening in his own country. I just hope King Husayn will manage to keep a tight grip on power.

[(Budet)] Have any messages been communicated to Jordan over the cross-border infiltrations?

[Levi] It is no secret that on such occasions we know how to communicate with Jordan and King Husayn. We speak in broad daylight, and whatever we say is intended to benefit the two countries and peoples. We speak to Jordan directly and indirectly. Once again, we wish Jordan stability.

[(Budet)] Thank you, Minister Levi.

[Levi] Thank you.

Further Levi Comments

TA1811185590 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by political reporter Shlomo Ganor outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem following the 18 November Cabinet session; in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles—recorded]

[Text] [Ganor] How is Jerusalem referring to the developments in Jordan?

[Levi] It is no secret that we are very interested in the maintenance of stability in Jordan. That coincides with our concern for our security. This is our longest border. It is a fact, as best we can determine, that for many years the Jordanian authorities—civilian or political, as well as military—have been doing their best to keep our common border quiet. It is only natural that when this is changing for the worse, we keep our eyes open and closely monitor developments. What took place cannot be called a serious deterioration, absolutely not; but we view even an infiltration such as the last one, and certainly its outcome, as very grave. When our forces suffer a loss of human life, the whole defense establishment rears up on its hind legs, and we see the events as even graver. After all, we would like to see the regime in Jordan in reliable and well-trained hands, and our border quiet.

[Ganor] Is King Husayn's regime in danger?

[Levi] The situation is not deteriorating in that way. I am convinced that he is taking all the necessary steps. The events in the Gulf add to the momentum of internal shocks caused by the unstable and even dangerous forces. We hope, however, that King Husayn and the authorities there will be able to control the situation; that is our hope. True, this is an internal Jordanian problem, but it has direct implications for Israel.

Shamir Says No Change in Policy

TA1911130490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that Israel is following events in Jordan with a certain measure of concern, but does not plan to change its policy toward it. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that upon emerging from a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, the prime minister said that an atmosphere of national and Islamic fanatical hysteria has been spreading through Jordan. We believe the king and the government are not part of this climate, Shamir said, but the question is to what extent they can control this threatening and dangerous whirlwind.

Turning to domestic affairs, the prime minister said that the religious legislation to be enacted as a result of the agreement with Agudat Yisra'el does not constitute a drastic change in the daily life of Israelis and even nonobservant ones will be able to live with it.

Islamic Influence in Jordan Noted

TA1911163190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Israeli sources claim that after the Temple Mount events, anti-Israel sentiments in Jordan have become more radical, particularly under the growing influence of Islamic elements in that country. That atmosphere induces Jordanian youths to engage in attacks against Israel, and this trend is expected to continue.

Our reporter Karmela Menashe notes at the same time that Israeli sources have pointed out that Jordan is making great efforts to prevent incursions from its territory, especially after the latest two infiltration attempts. It has increased alertness along the border, manned observation posts, and carried out ambushes. Nevertheless, most of the infiltration attempts were privately initiated, and the Jordanian Government encounters difficulties handling them.

The Israeli sources also pointed out that the administration in Amman has recently been more receptive to the Palestinian organizations. [passage omitted]

Finance Ministry, Defense Clash on Defense Budget

TA1811151690 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] In an unprecedented attack on the defense establishment and Defense Minister Moshe Arens, senior sources in the Finance Ministry today stated that the Defense Ministry is taking advantage of the crisis in the Gulf to increase the defense budget. The defense establishment's demand that the U.S. increase military aid was termed by the Finance Ministry sources as chutzpah. This was reported by our economic correspondent Yaron Kulas.

Defense sources said in response that the defense budget will be discussed by the cabinet, and by it alone. Our army affairs correspondent Amir Fink notes that in a discussion with the finance minister last week, the defense minister stressed the importance of the additional budget request, primarily because of unexpected developments due to the Gulf crisis and because of the standing request for additional money to cover the cost of dealing with the ongoing uprising in the territories.

Shinuy Submits Motion of No Confidence

TA1911130090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Shinuy has submitted to the Knesset a motion of no confidence in the government in view of the Likud's commitments

to Agudat Yisra'el regarding a change in the system of government, religious radicalization, and the prime minister's statement about a large Israel for the sake of the Jewish people.

MAPAM [United Workers Party] has announced that it will submit a motion to regard every vote on the religious laws put forth by Agudat Yisra'el as a vote of confidence in the government.

Minister Urges Reducing Number of Arabs Employed

TA1711100690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] Economics and Planning Minister David Magen has suggested cutting in half the number of Arab laborers from the territories who are allowed to work inside the Green Line, leaving only 50,000. The others, some 70,000, would have to find work in their residential areas and, following examination by the Employment Services, their jobs would be taken over by new immigrants and the unemployed.

Our correspondent Gid'on Rotem reports that in tomorrow's cabinet session the economics and planning minister will suggest that the law be amended to include stiffer punishment for those who employ foreign laborers without a permit. Speaking in Tel Aviv last night, Minister Magen said that at present more than 90,000 Israelis are registered as unemployed, while some 100,000 laborers from Europe and the Far East work in Israel, in addition to Arabs from the territories who do not have a work permit.

Cabinet Endorses 'Religious' Laws, Discusses Jordan

TA1811125990 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Excerpts] Good afternoon from the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. As previously promised to Agudat Yisra'el, the cabinet today endorsed two laws, which were agreed upon last Friday [16 November]: A law restricting public transportation on the Sabbath, and a law prohibiting the advertising of licentious material on street billboards. All the ministers raised their hands to approve the laws, except Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan, the representative of Tzomet. These are political and not religious laws, we heard Minister Eytan saying. Minister Eytan had also earlier inquired as to the various details of the proposed laws. The NRP [National Religious Party] ministers also voted in favor of the laws after they were promised a meeting with the prime minister in approximately 30 minutes in order to decide what position Deputy Minister Yig'al Bibi will be given, and on the matter of the Authorization Law [proposed law enabling municipal bodies to rule on entertainment on the Sabbath]. [passage omitted]

Within the framework of the coalition agreement, these appointments were made: Knesset Member [MK] Menahem Porush was named deputy minister for labor and social affairs; MK Shmu'el Halpert was named deputy minister for national insurance affairs at the Prime Minister's Office; and MK Verdiger was named deputy minister to the Office on Jerusalem Affairs, an office that was established especially for this opportunity. Several Shinuy faction members demonstrated outside the Prime Minister's Office against the endorsement of the laws, but the laws were approved.

In addition to coalition matters, the cabinet also discussed security affairs. The cabinet was briefed on the security situation and on the political climate in Jordan. We heard Health Minister Olmert explain Jerusalem's viewpoint on King Husayn's position.

[Begin Olmert recording] Of course we have no interest in the weakening of King Husayn. We have no desire to see him fall, because the alternative to King Husayn would be a much more extreme regime that would open Jordan's gates to the presence of military forces hostile to Israel. This could drag us into situations we wish to avoid. [end recording]

Yuval Ne'eman, minister of energy and infrastructure, science and technology, issued his weekly call for the deportation of Faysal al-Husayni. Ne'eman claimed that the prime minister had promised to look into the legal problems inherent in this matter.

The admonition given to Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Central Command, was also discussed in the session. Likud Minister Ehud Olmert asked what had warranted the public admonition of Maj. Gen. Mordekhay, when admonitions were not given in the cases of the hang-glider night [October 1987 hang-glider terrorist attack on Army base in north] and the murder of reserve soldier Amnon Pomerantz in the Gaza Strip recently. The security experts and the prime minister did not respond, and preferred to transfer the matter for discussion during another government forum to convene in a few days.

Parties React to Endorsement of Religious Laws

TA1811202190 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Sharp reactions to the new laws [concerning public transportation on the Sabbath and advertising that some regard as pornographic] were voiced today in political circles. The MAPAM [United Workers Party] and CRM [Citizens Rights Movement] Knesset factions announced that they intend to turn every Knesset discussion of those laws into a vote of no confidence in the government.

The Alignment Knesset faction chairman, Knesset Member Hayim Ramon, said that the Likud's attempt to justify its total surrender to the religious parties by citing agreements allegedly made by the Alignment in the past is hypocrisy.

The Likud faction said that during Shim'on Peres' attempts to set up a government, the Alignment promised to support similar legislation, and also to provide generous allocations of funds to the religious parties.

The Shinuy faction said that the Likud, headed by Yitzhaq Shamir, has left the secular public in Israel exposed to Khomeyni-like policies that belong in the dark days of the Middle Ages.

The Tehiya said that all those protesting and opposing the laws were willing to make much greater concessions to buy the affection of Agudat Yisra'el for what they call peace.

The HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] faction said that the government, in making its decision, has surrendered and has ignored the secular majority and women.

New Minister To Work To End Arab Employment

TA2011083090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Deputy Minister Menahem Porush assumed his position at the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry this morning. Our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad reports that the prime minister and Minister David Magen, who up till now had been in charge of the ministry, also participated in the ceremony.

Deputy Minister Porush said that he would exert efforts to absorb new immigrants and to end the employment of foreign workers and of Arab laborers from Judaea and Samaria.

Detention of Arab Notables 'To Test' Reactions

TA1411072990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Jerusalem sources have said that the detention of the three Arab notables yesterday is but the first step against the intifadah leadership, which may be followed by additional measures.

Senior sources in Jerusalem pointed out that the detentions were designed to test the reactions of territories residents and those abroad.

Palestinian Leaders Denounce Detentions

TA1411172690 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Leaders in the territories have denounced the administrative detention of the three Palestinians yesterday. The Palestinians called them political detentions deriving from political pressure by the rightist parties. Faysal al-Husayni said that the wave of stabbings and the latest acts of violence are not a new stage in the intifadah. 'Udi Segal reports:

The administrative detention of the three Palestinian figures once again show that the Israeli Government is not interested in solving the problem of the territories by political and peaceful means, Palestinian leaders in the territories said today. The chairman of the Palestinian Bar Association announced a three-day strike in reaction to the detentions. A news conference in East Jerusalem was attended by several foreign consuls, who attended to show their presence and thereby express support for the Palestinian leadership, which denounces the Defense Ministry policy. The presence of the foreign consuls is part of the Palestinian leadership's policy to involve foreign elements in the Palestinian problem in the territories.

Zuhayra Kamal, who is identified with the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, claims that if the defense establishment is interested in detaining all those involved in the intifadah, then at least 90 percent of the Palestinian population in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip have to be arrested. Faysal al-Husayni said that such an action would bring an even greater deterioration in the situation.

[Begin al-Husayni recording] Now that they are detaining people who are in favor of peace and a political solution, they strengthen the violence and push the entire region toward bloodshed. [end recording]

Colonel Shalom Harari, of the Defense Ministry's Arab affairs department, made clear yesterday that the action taken against the Palestinians was necessary for security reasons because two of them are involved in actions of the Unified National Command of the Uprising, which drafts and disseminates leaflets and, therefore, has a role in the recent increase in violence in the territories. The Defense Ministry hopes that the detentions will lower the level of violence, but defense sources said that some of the violent actions are not planned by the uprising command but are implemented by extremists, creating the impression that the intifadah is no longer in control of the leadership.

Violence in Jerusalem Said Exceeding Territories

TA2011074790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Deputy Commander Rafi Peled, the head of intelligence and detectives in the police force, said that in light of the situation today in East Jerusalem, an incident such as that in which reserve soldier Amnon Pomerantz was murdered in a Gaza Strip refugee camp could occur.

Deputy Commander Peled said that the situation in the villages and neighborhoods of East Jerusalem is very serious, adding that the scope of violence is similar to and even greater than that in the territories.

Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that Deputy Commander Peled made these remarks in a meeting with education officials in Jerusalem. He expressed the belief that joint community-police activity could supply an answer to the sense of insecurity that has enveloped the residents of the capital.

King's Meeting With Bush in Paris Postponed

JN1911121390 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] A spokesman for the Royal Hashemite Court today announced that upon the suggestion of his majesty the king it was agreed with the White House last Friday evening to hold a meeting between his majesty and the U.S. President, George Bush, in Paris tomorrow, November 20, before Mr. Bush embarks on a visit to the Middle East. Last night, the American side contacted the Royal Court requesting postponing the meeting for a later date due to reasons which do not permit President Bush to hold the meeting as scheduled. No new date has been yet set for the meeting.

Editorial Views Missed Meeting

JN2011111790 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Nov 90 p 16

[Editorial: "The Postponed Husayn-Bush Meeting Was an Opportunity Which Should Have Been Seized Rather Than Missed"]

[Text] Yesterday, an announcement was made postponing until a future date not agreed on the meeting scheduled to be held in Paris today between His Majesty King Husayn and U.S. President Bush. The meeting was postponed at the request of the U.S. side, which said that new developments do not permit President Bush to hold the meeting on the scheduled date.

We do not want to discuss the reasons for this postponement. However, it must be emphasized had this meeting been held on its scheduled date, today, it would have acquired a special significance. It could have served as an additional propitious opportunity for producing positive results in favor of the diplomatic option, particularly as the meeting would have preceded the U.S. President's Middle East tour. Taking into account that His Majesty King Husayn is well conversed on the details and developments of the Gulf crisis and also on its political and historical background; and because of his thorough understanding of the positions of the region's states and peoples on the war option advocated by Washington, which is beating the war drums and rallying Arab and international support for it, King Husayn, through his sincere and honest efforts to spare the opposing troops and the region's peoples further calamities and catastrophes, could have put a brake on the U.S. President's rush and enthusiasm for war.

Once again, we do not wish to discuss the reasons for postponing the meeting today between Husayn and Bush. Likewise, we are not saying that there is bad faith concerning these reasons. However, it should be said that Washington has missed or failed to seize an important opportunity which could have produced results that would serve the peace option, which in the final analysis, would first and foremost serve the interests of the region's states and peoples as well as those of the United States and its allies.

At any rate, this worth-taking opportunity was wasted by Washington for reasons which only it knows. Nevertheless, we are still hopeful that this will not be the last propitious opportunity.

Swiss Official Remarks on Gulf, Israel

JN1911170590 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Mr. Klaus Jacobi, the secretary of state of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, has said his country is advocating a peaceful negotiated settlement to the Gulf crisis and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Mr. Jacobi told radio Jordan correspondent that he thought releasing foreigners held in Iraq over a three-month period was too long.

[Begin recording] [Jacobi] Yes, the aim of my visit is to have a first hand information about the situation in this area with respect to the conflict between Israel and the Arab countries, and of course, also to have front [as heard] information about the situation in the Gulf crisis. I think that the situation is tense. I think that measures have been taken which are not measures which would be taken if you want to calm the situation. I think what my friends from the Palestine movement told me is that the kind of colonization is taking place in these territories, which of course is not the best sign for having a peaceful negotiated settlement. Yes, I think that now the Israel Government has given in to a certain extent in that they allow that a representative from the Secretariat of the UN is going to these territories. He will be accepted, but of course I think it would have been better if a whole team of the Security Council would have been accepted by Israel.

Well, all depends how this announcement will be implemented. Of course, if the president of Iraq says that he will start freeing hostages at the time of Christmas and then span it over a period of three months, this is a very long period. And especially I think that this is a situation which will not encourage the Americans and the United Kingdom to hold back. Now, of course Switzerland always has been a country which was in favor of peaceful solutions. We have even made proposals for peaceful settlements of disputes, and for that very reason Switzerland has always been in favor of a peaceful and negotiated solution, here in the Gulf crisis, but also in the crisis between Israel and the Arab countries.

We have already made a contribution of 10 million Swiss francs, which, indirectly of ,course is also in favor of Jordan since all the... [changes thought] mainly a big part of the refugees could be flown out thanks to the contribution made by the Swiss Government, and the new efforts to bring economic assistance to the front line state, we certainly will be in favor of having Jordan as being one of the main beneficiaries of these actions. And

as far as Switzerland is concerned, I think we hope that Jordan will get the major part of what we are pledging to aid the front line states.

[Reporter] Sir, going back to the occupied territories, Israeli prime minister yesterday announced that the occupied territories will... [rephrases] he advocates keeping the occupied territories for Israeli Jewish emigrants.

[Jacobi] Well [word indistinct], I think this is not in line with what he told me personally in my meeting with him, since he very explicitly said that they do not have any legal claims on the West Bank and the territories, Gaza Strip. And, I think this is in contradiction to what the Iraq Government did when they made out of Kuwait the 19th province of Iraq. The Israeli Government has not made promises in the legal sense of the West Bank and of the Gaza Strip of Israel. They always have said that they want to have a negotiated settlement in order to find out what would be the future status of these territories.

[Reporter] Did the statements yesterday contradict this talk, sir?

[Jacobi] Yes, I think you must be aware that this statement was made before a very right wing audience, when Prime Minister Shamir, yes, of the Likud. When he spoke with me, I think he was more on the moderate line.

[Reporter] What do you think of the Soviet Jewish emigration?

[Jacobi] Well, I think this is part of the new policy of the Soviet Union. This is also the result of the whole movement we have in Europe; namely, that we will have one full Europe and for that reason, I think, if self-determination of these Soviet citizens is to go to Israel, we should allow them. The question is where they will be settled. Now, you know that the U.S. position is that they should not be settled in the West Bank or in the Gaza Strip and this is not being the case, but, on the other hand of course they might take a settlement which so far has been in Israel and the settlers in Israel will go out to the West Bank and that is something of course which is very preoccupying. [end recording]

Efforts To Supply Medicine to Iraq Detailed

NC1811191190 Paris AFP in English 1636 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Amman, Nov 18 (AFP)—The Jordan Red Crescent, or Muslim equivalent of the Red Cross, is coordinating the supply of medicine to Iraq from Western humanitarian organisations, the Red Crescent vice president said here Sunday.

Muhammad Hadid said the Red Crescent had received 736 kilogrammes (1,600 pounds) of medicine on Saturday from the Dutch Red Cross and the consignment was to be sent on to Iraq later Sunday.

A Danish Red Cross delegation was expected here Sunday with 1,200 kilogrammes (2,600 pounds) of medical supplies for Iraq, he said, adding that its Dutch equivalent was also set to provide 1,500 kilogrammes (3,300 pounds).

The Jordan Red Crescent is acting as a go-between between Western humanitarian organisations and the Iraqi Red Crescent, but it had no contact with the Iraqi authorities, Mr. Hadid told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

The official had said on November 8 that the U.S., British, French, German, Japanese and Spanish Red Cross organisations were also planning to supply Iraq with medicine via Jordan. [passage omitted]

Iraq-Bound Medicines Arrive

JN2011082090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Nov 90 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The first shipment of medicines promised by Red Cross societies in Western nations arrived at the Queen Alia International Airport Monday and was delivered to the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) which will arrange for its shipment to the Iraqi Red Crescent Society.

The announcement was made by Dr. Muhammad Mutlaq al-Hadid, JNRCS vice president and director of relief operations. Al-Hadid, who accompanied British and American Red Cross officials on visits to Iraq to arrange for the shipments of medicine to the Iraqi society, said that the agreement between foreign Red Cross societies and the JNRCS provided for the JNRCS officials to send the relief supplies to Baghdad. The Iraqi Red Crescent Society is conducting humanitarian services in Iraq, benefiting foreign nationals living there.

Al-Hadid said that the shipment, which arrived Monday, comprised 21 packages of various types of medicines worth $75,000 as a gift from the Red Cross Society in the Netherlands to the Iraqi Red Crescent Society.

A team from the Danish Red Cross Society, led by its manager of international services, left Amman for Baghdad Monday to discuss with the Iraqi society officials conditions of the Danish hostages in Iraq and plans for providing them with relief supplies, according to al- Hadid.

He said that the second shipment of medical supplies, comprising 58 packages worth more than half a million Danish Kroner from the Danish Red Cross Society, would arrive in Amman Tuesday to be forwarded by the JNRCS to the Iraqi society.

According to al-Hadid, the first shipment of medicines would go to Iraq Tuesday.

Coverage of Ilyas Al-Hirawi's Visit to Damascus

Reasons Cited for Visit

NC1911182790 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] As of this moment, the Lebanese Forces are rejecting [the deployment of the Army in the eastern area] and the legitimacy stands as if they are incapable of making the decision to implement the Greater Beirut Plan despite the great local and Syrian support for it.

The local developments and their gravity have compelled President Ilyas al-Hirawi to travel to Damascus where he has in fact arrived to hold talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and ser.ior Syrian officials.

Officials Leave for Damascus

NC2011071190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt left for Damascus yesterday. Knowledgeable sources said that Speaker al-Husayni and Minister Birri will hold talks with Syrian officials on the outstanding issue of appointments in the security forces.

Meanwhile, Minister Junblatt is expected to hold talks with the Syrian leadership on the implementation of the Greater Beirut Plan and its effect on the mountain areas.

Presidents Support Greater Beirut

NC2011102490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Statement issued by the Lebanese Presidency's Information Office in Beirut on 20 November]

[Text] Lebanese Republic President Ilyas al-Hirawi returned from Damascus at dawn today. While there he held talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

The two presidents reiterated their intention to implement all the articles of the national accord document to establish peace in Lebanon, starting with Greater Beirut; to remove all the obstacles and doubts obstructing its implementation; and to culminate with the imposition of the state's authority over all the Lebanese territories.

President al-Hirawi underlined Syria's role in assisting Lebanon through the various stages of this document's implementation, particularly at this critical stage in Arab history.

The president was assured by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad that Syria is committed to its pledge to help Lebanon.

Iranians Demand Release of Hostage Relatives

LD1611180790 Tehran IRNA in English 1554 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Beirut, Nov. 16, IRNA—Relatives of four Iranians including three diplomats taken captive by the Falangists in 1982, have called for all-out efforts to be made to determine the fate of their loved ones.

Speaking at a press conference here Thursday, Mrs Maryam Musavi, the wife of the kidnapped Iranian charge d'affaires to Beirut, urged the Lebanese government, which she said is responsible for the safety of diplomats to take necessary measures to determine the fate of the Iranian diplomats.

In response to a question on the likelihood of their relatives being alive, she said two years after her husband was kidnapped she received a letter from him in his own hand writing.

Asked abut a claim raised by Samir Ja'ja' accusing former commander of the Falangist forces Elie Hubayqah of killing the Iranian diplomats, she replied.

"Hubayqah himself claims that the Iranian hostages are still imprisoned by Ja'ja'. If the latter still insists that the Iranian diplomats are dead he must hand over their bodies to us."

Later, the Iranian families met with Ja'fari Mufti of Lebanon Abd al-Amir Qabalan and calle don him to help secure the release of their kidnapped family members.

Amal, Hizballah Postpone Prisoner Exchange

NC1911173290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] The exchange of prisoners between the Amal Movement and Hizballah has been postponed till tomorrow following the emergence of new obstacles that prevented this step from being taken today.

It has been learned that Hizballah is demanding the release of five prisoners held by Palestinian groups, while the Palestinian Fatah Movement demands the release of four Palestinians held by Hizballah.

Gunmen Kidnap Two Lebanese Army Soldiers

NC2011091290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Gunmen kidnapped two Lebanese Army soldiers, Jiryis Paul Habshah and Jabbur Ghalib Sa'adah, as they were heading toward Beirut at 0800 today. The gunmen, who were riding in a civilian car, intercepted the two soldiers and carted them off to an unknown destination.

Birri Sees No Obstacles to Iqlim Al-Tuffah Pact

NC1611170290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri this afternoon received Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian intelligence in Lebanon. They discussed Lebanese developments, particularly the Iqlim al-Tuffah issue.

In a press statement, Birri noted that the Quadripartite Committee will meet today to exchange lists of names of Amal Movement and Hizballah prisoners of war and detainees in preparation for their release. Birri stressed that all reports leaked about the Palestinian position on the Iqlim al-Tuffah are not accurate. He said that the Palestinian stance is positive regarding the deployment of the legitimate government forces. As for the implementation of the agreement on Iqlim al-Tuffah, he pointed out that the army will be requested to start preparations and contacts before the parties withdraw from Iqlim al-Tuffah. He noted that the army has requested 10 days to deploy its forces. He underlined that there are absolutely no obstacles preventing the agreement's implementation.

Incidents Concerning Greater Beirut Plan Reported

Party Accused of Obstruction

NC1911172590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] The Phalangist Party and the Lebanese Forces have made impossible demands and set conditions designed to obstruct the implementation of the the Greater Beirut Plan and thus weaken the march of peace which began with putting down the [General 'Awn-led] rebellion in B'abda and al-Yarzah.

Today the Phalangist Party, giving feeble excuses, asked that the Lebanese Army postpone its entry into al-Ashrafiyah, al-Karantina, al-Dawrah, and Beirut Port. This is in contravention of the Cabinet's statement which set the end of today for the Army's entry into these areas.

An official statement is expected to be issued today on the obstructors, their objectives, and their suicidal policy which is indifferent to Lebanese interests.

Within this context, Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss today received a telephone call from Defense Minister Dr. Albert Mansur who briefed him on the latest arrangements and measures taken to implement the Greater Beirut Plan according to schedule.

Phalangists Issue Statement

NC1911181290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Statement by Phalangist Party Political Bureau on 19 November in Beirut—read by announcer]

[Text] The Phalangist Party Political Bureau held a meeting at the party's central office today. After reviewing the situation in general and assessing the current stage, the bureau members examined the development that has surfaced during the implementation of the Greater Beirut Plan. In this respect, the Political Bureau would like to stress the following to the public:

1. The party's commitment to the al-Ta'if accord is firm. It is a free decision stemming from the party's conviction about the soundness of this accord as a suitable recipe for national accord; a prelude to peace; and a basis for the revival of the state's establishments on democratic, sound, and balanced grounds.

2. The al-Ta'if accord provides an opportunity the Lebanese must not miss. Therefore, we must all cooperate to respect its provisions and spirit and to follow its text and spirit in any executive step made by the state in its national march.

3. Our insistence on normalizing the situation in the two al- Matn regions by creating an appropriate security and political atmosphere that could give all citizens the impression that they are protected by the just and capable state that guarantees all their basic rights and freedoms arises from our eagerness to see the salvation process achieved on a sound basis.

4. Proceeding from this eagerness, we demand that the steps adopted be corrected. We also demand there be no hastiness to take any new and incomplete steps because incomplete steps do not make good solutions. It is our duty in this delicate stage of our history to move slowly but persistently and with firm steps in order to build what is worthy of surviving. The only thing worthy of survival is that which satisifes the national conscience and gives the citizens the feeling that the state is for everybody and that everyone living in it is free and equal.

Lebanese Forces' Stand Examined

NC1911185790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Government sources have stated that the Lebanese Forces will be committing suicide if they reject the Greater Beirut Plan. This means that they have not learned a lesson from what happened to General 'Awn and from the 13 October operation which ended his rebellion.

The sources stressed that the Army brigades in Greater Beirut must be put under a unified command so that they will receive unified orders. It is inconceivable that each brigade commander should act alone and issue his orders unilaterally.

The sources noted that the Lebanese Forces' demand that only certain types of brigades should deploy in their areas means that the Army is not qualified to deploy in any area, and hence the Army will not be able to deploy in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

In any case, midnight is the deadline for the withdrawal of the militias with their weapons from Greater Beirut, which will then come under the control of the legitimate government.

[In a related, Beirut-datelined report, Paris AFP in English at 1757 GMT on 19 November adds: "A government plan to end militia rule in Beirut and place the city under army control was delayed because of demands made by the influential Christian Lebanese Forces (FL) militia, an official said Monday.

["'The FL accept the principal of withdrawing from (their stronghold) but they are posing certain conditions,' the official said. He added the delay would not last 'more than a few days' as negotiations were underway.

["LF leader Samir Ja'ja' was demanding that troops deployed in al-Ashrafiyah did not include men hostile to his group, such as soldiers who fought the LF under ousted Christian military leader Michel 'Awn in the past year.

["The militia and the Christian right-wing Kata'ib Party were also demanding that the government return their offices in the al-Matn region.

["'Some of the LF's conditions are acceptable, such as guarantees for the security of the al-Matn, but we cannot accept their demand to approve a list of army troops who will deploy in al-Ashrafiyah,' the official said.

["'Obviously, troops should not provoke the LF but the force should not be the militia's accomplice,' he said.

["Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi meanwhile arrived in Damascus on an unexpected visit and was immediately received by his Syrian counterpart Hafiz al-Asad."]

Ja'ja' Explains Proposal

NC1911193390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] In an interview with AL-DIYAR to be published tomorrow, Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' affirmed that Greater Beirut is not an end but a link in the political solution for which the al-Ta'if agreement is the framework. Dr. Ja'ja' said: We have made some observations regarding the Greater Beirut Plan because we deal with the al-Ta'if agreement completely seriously and responsibly, and because some elements in the Lebanese state lack seriousness in dealing with conditions and events. We want a serious and strong Greater Beirut that will provide confidence and reassurance for the citizens. We reject a Greater Beirut in the image of the al-Matn where legitimacy's dealings with the situation in this region were neither encouraging nor reassuring. The only criteria in our position toward legitimacy are the extent of its seriousness and commitment to equality and its behaving responsibly. We will be the first to approve a serious Greater Beirut even if all parties are against it, and we will be the first to reject a fragile and nominal Greater Beirut even if all parties approve it.

Dr. Ja'ja' gave names and facts in describing the acts of aggression against citizens in the two al-Matn regions in the month since legitimacy took over the area. These included about 30 kidnappings as well as several attacks on houses and other places. These were committed by the Hubayqah and Hardan groups and some Army elements.

Dr. Ja'ja' said: I cannot agree to hand over al-Ashrafiyah unless I receive firm guarantees that not a single attack will take place. I have not received such guarantees as of now.

The Lebanese Forces commander explained that Greater Beirut must be established, but that it must be established only for the benefit of legitimacy. He said: I do not demand the Lebanese Forces return to the al-Matn region, but I demand that no armed militias enter al-Ashrafiyah under the Greater Beirut Plan. He affirmed his absolute rejection of any kidnapping incidents in al-Ashrafiyah.

The Lebanese Forces commander expressed surprise that there is anarchy only in the two al-Matn regions, which are the only regions under the control of legitimacy, while most of the other regions are not suffering from anarchic conditions. He said: We understand Greater Beirut to mean security, reassurance, and peace of mind for the citizens. However, the situation in the al-Matn area is far from reassuring. He added: We want Greater Beirut to serve as an example for what the citizen in al-Matn wants. We refuse to have the al-Matn example today applied to the promised Greater Beirut.

Dr. Ja'ja' said: The Lebanese Forces' response to legitimacy regarding the Greater Beirut Plan was as follows: We are for a Greater Beirut that provides security, confidence, and reassurance; but we are not for a Greater Beirut that shelters the seeds of collapse.

Al-Ashrafiyah Deployment Viewed

NC2011064790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Lebanese Defense Ministry sources have reiterated that the Army is quite prepared to carry out any operation within the Greater Beirut boundries without seeking the help of the Syrian forces. This information was relayed to the Lebanese Forces' envoys who had met with Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss and Defense Minister Albert Mansur over the past two days.

The Lebanese Forces' envoys were also told that the Lebanese legitimate authority's stand is irrevocable, particularly with regard to granting the Army Command the freedom to choose the units to deploy.

Prime Minister al-Huss was cited as saying that the legitimate authority has not yet forgotten the 'Awn rebellion, and he asked if the Lebanese Forces want to lead a second rebellion?

Regarding the deployment issue, the Plan provides for dividing the al-Ashrafiyah area into three sectors: Units

of the Sixth Brigade will deploy in the Damascus road-al-Maqabir-al-Yasu'iyah sector; units of the Sarba Brigade under Wahbah Qaqish will deploy in the sector surrounding the Phalangist war council; and units from the Second Brigade will deploy in the remaining sector.

Use of Force Examined

NC2011120890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Citing a ranking government source, REUTER said that the government will adopt a decisive stand today on the Lebanese Forces' refusal to withdraw from al-Ashrafiyah. The source reiterated that the government is determined to implement the Greater Beirut Plan despite the delay because the issue is settled and is not a subject of discussion.

The source did not reveal the nature of the expected government's stand; however, he did not rule out the possibility of using force to implement the Greater Beirut Plan.

Meanwhile REUTER cited eyewitnesses in al-Ashrafiyah as saying that the Lebanese Forces continue to hold on to their barracks and heavy weapons and that there are no signs of their readiness to withdraw.

Fadlallah Views Greater Beirut, Hostages, Israel

JN1211203290 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 10 Nov 90 p 6

[Text] Beirut—Lebanese Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has warned of Israeli attempts to hamper the progress of the Lebanese accord. He said that Israel is unhappy with the current understanding among the Lebanese but is aware of the U.S. "red line" which it cannot cross.

In a statement to AL-ITTIHAD, he described the current situation in Lebanon as an opportunity to catch one's breath but not for happy dreams. He said that the international and regional political atmosphere is favorable to resolving many problems, including the hostages issue.

Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah asserted that what is happening in the Lebanese arena will ease the security situation through the Greater Beirut Plan. He contends, however, that the political settlement will continue to be affected by the shaky regional and international conditions. He believes that the setting of conditions and guarantees by some parties is due to the existence of axes, but will not prevent a solution because the regional and international forces which have given a green light are larger than all the political and security factors that are arousing such fears.

He pointed out that the relations between the Amal Movement and Hizballah go beyond the local Lebanese arena and has regional and international complications. Regarding the hostages file, he said the present atmosphere is favorable for resolving many such problems.

Regarding the present proposed mechanism for arranging the situation in Lebanon, which begins with the Greater Beirut Plan and ends with the formation of a government and the dissolution of the militias, as well as the affect of the regional and international conditions on these plans, Allamah Fadlallah said: In the absence of a plan to separate the Lebanese crisis from the Middle East crisis, and in the absence of an imminent solution to the Middle East crisis, we believe that what is going on in Lebanon gives the Lebanese a chance to breathe more easily. Therefore, we believe that it is not too much for the Lebanese to enjoy some secure political atmosphere without armed violence—an atmosphere which is affected by the shaky regional conditions. We in Lebanon want a rest but we do not expect a deep sleep and happy dreams.

Asked about the guarantees demanded by the parties to the conflict in Lebanon and the possibility of this obstructing the solution, Allamah Fadlallah said these requirements and demands are motivated by fear rather than a concrete feeling, because the nature of the regional and international political background, which gave the green light for the new developments in Lebanon, is stronger than all the security and political positions which give rise to such fears. He added: Maybe some statements are made to stress a certain regional position or to acquire some gains for regional forces.

Allamah Fadlallah asserted that the horizons of the solution between the Amal Movement and Hizballah go beyond the Lebanese scene. However, these horizons do not go far beyond the Lebanese arena in some respects, because the bone of contention is the presence of regional and international complications in addition to Lebanese factors. He added that this issue emanates from the political climate which governs political relations in the region, whether in the international or regional realities. The issue, therefore, goes beyond the Lebanese question to a broader scope.

Asked about the hostages and regional problems, Fadlallah said: The question of hostages goes beyond the issue of Amal and Hizballah. In fact, it goes beyond Hizballah itself because this issue has to do with the international and regional political climate which we believe is appropriate to resolve many issues of this kind.

Answering a question on the Israeli factor and its role in obstructing the solution, Allamah Fadlallah asserted that Israel feels uneasy about any state of calmness in Lebanon in which the Lebanese can think about their free, just issues in a practical manner for their future. Therefore, it works to obstruct all solutions because of its security and political positions, whether in the south or inside Beirut, or in other areas.

He went on to say: I believe that Israel does not have absolute freedom in political action. It is subject to many international stands, especially concerning the U.S.

policy in the region and particularly in Lebanon. We are not saying that Israel's policy toward the Arabs and Lebanon follows the United States, but Israel understands well the red lines of U.S. policy and does not overstep them.

Further Reportage on Ja'ja' QNA Interview

NC1811135090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' has demanded that the al-Ta'if agreement be implemented in full without reordering clauses, or leaving out some parts and implementing others. He also called on all concerned Lebanese parties to participate in building the future Lebanese State on the basis of equality and with full responsibility by all. [passage omitted]

In an interview with QNA [QATARI NEWS AGENCY], Dr. Ja'ja' revealed that Minister of Public Works Walid Junblatt set numerous conditions, submitted many questions, and made numerous remarks about greater Beirut during the latest Cabinet meeting. [passage omitted]

Regarding freedom of political activity in greater Beirut, particularly in its eastern areas, Dr. Ja'ja' said: It is not possible to submit this principle so that it will be implemented in one place and not in another. Therefore, if we want to speak about freedom of political activity in East Beirut, then it is also possible to speak about freedom of political activity for all persons in West Beirut and the mountain area. He said he regards the raising of this issue in this subjective manner as a cover-up for the presence of some armed groups in greater Beirut, something which he rejects.

Dr. Ja'ja' submitted an initiative to guarantee freedom of political activity in all Lebanese areas. He said it is based on discussing this issue within the framework of the Lebanese Government in the presence of its ministers, and on holding negotiations to permit free political activity with a guarantee from the government, which will then be able to inform all political parties and the Lebanese Forces that it is possible to exercise free political and party activity in all areas. He denied that he has any reservations regarding any Lebanese party in the context of this initiative.

Ja'ja' said he would welcome the opportunity to participate in a new Lebanese Government. He thanked Nabih Birri, minister of hydroelectric resources, for insisting recently that the Lebanese Forces commander should participate in the next government, which will be a government of Lebanese national accord.

He was asked about his own political future and the future of the Lebanese Forces after the abolishment of the Lebanese militias and his entry into the new government, and whether there will be a contradiction between his governmental duties and his command of the Lebanese Forces. He remarked that in the initial stage, there will be no contradiction. As long as the state is serious, the Lebanese Forces will move toward political action. He explained that, indeed, the Lebanese Forces were established when the state disappeared.

Dr. Ja'ja' added: If the new state, however, does not carry out its duties, the Lebanese Forces will continue to exist in both their political and military aspects. [passage omitted]

Asked about the Palestinian demand for an agreement to replace the Cairo Agreement [between the Palestinians and the Lebanese State, subsequently abrogated by the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies] to organize the armed Palestinian presence on Lebanese territory, the Lebanese Forces commander said: I demand that no weapons other than those of the legitimate Lebanese authorities be present on Lebanese territory.

He asserted that this issue is not subject to bargaining, because Lebanese sovereignty is an integral whole. He added that if the Palestinians, other parties, or any party or dear friend of Lebanon are sincere, there can be no manipulation of Lebanese territory, and all relations with all parties will be based on respect for Lebanese sovereignty. He denied the possibility that the Lebanese Forces will hold any dialogue with the Palestinians on this issue. He asserted any such talks must be conducted with the legitimate Lebanese authorities which alone have the right to negotiate and to handle all relations with external parties.

He reiterated his denial that there is any Palestinian, or any other Arab or non-Arab presence, in the areas controlled by the Lebanese Forces. [passage omitted]

On the appointment of new deputies to the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, Dr. Ja'ja' revealed in his interview with QNA that this issue has been indefinitely postponed, and said that other solutions are currently being considered.

Dr. Ja'ja' expressed regret regarding the consequences of General 'Awn's adventures and his choice of an erroneous strategy which cost Lebanon dearly. He affirmed that he is not currently against 'Awn personally, and urged that he be tried politically. He said he agrees with Minister Junblatt's demand for trying a number of Lebanese officials in this connection. [passage omitted]

IDF Officer, 'Terrorists' Killed in Clash

TA2011054790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] An Israeli Army officer has been killed in a clash with terrorists in south Lebanon. At least four of the terrorists have also been killed. With first details, over to Alan Ben-'Ami:

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were on an initiated action against Palestinian terrorist organizations located in the eastern sector of the region, about six kilometers north of the security zone. According to the IDF spokesman, the Israeli soldiers were operating in difficult terrain in a part of south Lebanon controlled by Palestinian groups. They spotted an armed group of terrorists near

them, opened fire, and charged at the gang. It was during the charge that Lieutenant Yogev was shot and killed. Four terrorists were also killed, and a fifth member of the group, who succeeded in eluding the soldiers in the dark, is believed to have been fatally wounded. The Army force returned back to Israel this morning.

The last IDF initiated action in south Lebanon was against Hizballah bases beyond the security zone 11 days ago. No Israelis were hurt in that operation which involved infantry, armor, and artillery in a combined operation. The funeral of Lieutenant Yaron Yogev, of Moshav Qidron, is due to take place at the moshav later this afternoon.

Lebanon Considers Opening Talks With Israel

JN2011072490 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Nov 90 p 1

["Special From Beirut"]

[Text] The Lebanese council of ministers met Nov. 14, 1990 and decided to open a direct and comprehensive dialogue with Israel to discuss various issues and outstanding problems, according to informed sources close to the Lebanese Prime Ministry.

The sources said Minister of Justice and Information Edmond Rizq will shoulder the responsibility of this dialogue and will conduct it directly. Rizq, a parliament deputy from Jazzin—a village under Israeli occupation—in southern Lebanon—lives with his family in the same town and shuttles between Beirut and the occupied town.

According to the sources, the government has authorised Rizq to conduct free dialogue with Israel around the following points.

—Israeli withdrawal from part of the Lebanese territory along the border area;

—The Lebanese government and armed forces will set up a no-man's-land between Lebanon and Israel to be supervised in conjunction with the United Nations forces;

—The two sides will examine ways to put an end to Israel's incursions inside Lebanese territory in return for a halt of all operations against northern Israel originating from Lebanese territory;

—The two sides should search for an amended formula for the Lebanese-Israeli armistice agreement of 1948 which was abrogated in the 1970s.

The source said that Israel's representatives in the negotiations, Uri Lubrani and General Yossi Beled, are now in Jazzin for the dialogue.

This dialogue has an organic relation with the ongoing process of creating a "greater Beirut" region although the process has been interrupted by attempts on the part of the leader of the Lebanese Forces to prevent the Lebanese army from entering Al-Ashrafiyah District and his insistence that only Christian forces should enter the area.

This stand is closely connected to Israel with the projected dialogue which in turn is aimed at involving Israel in the "Al-Ta'if" agreement so that it can have its own way in settling matters related to the southern regions of Lebanon now under its control.

Israel, according to the sources, is trying to exploit the "greater Beirut" project as a bait and a justification for its demand to clear the south from all Lebanese and Palestinian resistance elements. They said that Israel hopes to create two buffer zones along the border whereby Lebanese and U.N. forces will be in a position to prevent any operations directed against Israel.

PLA Forces Clash With Lahd Militia Units

NC1911133690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Extreme tension prevails along the Kafr Falus-Lib'a-'Ayn-al-Mir combat lines following clashes last night between the Popular Liberation Army [PLA]—Martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd Forces and the Lahd agents.

A PLA military spokesman issued a statement today in which he accused Lahd militiamen of unexpectedly triggering the military escalation along the combat lines east of Sidon and of shelling PLA positions. The spokesman added that the PLA had to return the fire with the appropriate weapons. The spokesman noted that a tank belonging to the militiamen in the vicinity of Qasr Salim was destroyed by PLA artillery. The tank was bombarding PLA positions.

French Intelligence Involved in Karami's Killing

NC2011081390 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 19 Nov 90 p 7

[Text] The French intelligence service seized documents from the al-Yarzah [Lebanese Defense Ministry] a few days before the collapse of General Michel 'Awn's rebellion and his departure from B'abda Palace on 13 October. The documents show that the French Intelligence was involved in the assassination of former Prime Minister Rashid Karami.

Regional Issues Discussed With Lebanese Leader

JN2011075090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi at 1800 yesterday. The talks dealt with the situation in the region and the steps taken to spread the authority of the legitimate government and attain Lebanese national accord.

Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi joined the meeting at a later time. The talks dealt with the situation in Lebanon and the steps taken to implement the Greater Beirut plan and the other steps related to the implementation of the national accord charter.

President al-Hirawi expressed appreciation for Syria's fraternal stand toward Lebanon and the legitimate government's efforts to end the abnormal situation and to move to a normal life under peace and security.

The president reiterated Syria's decision to help fraternal Lebanon achieve progress toward restoring normal life under national accord.

President al-Hirawi dined with the president. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah, Information Minister Muhammad Salman, and Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Wahib Fadil were invited to the dinner banquet.

Paper Criticizes Shamir Occupied Land Remarks

JN2011084990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 20 Nov 90

[From the press review]

[Text] In its "Behind the News" column, the newspaper TISHRIN comments on the new Israeli statements, pointing out that these statements reflect a situation whose devastating consequences are being experienced daily by our Palestinian people and our citizens in the occupied territories.

TISHRIN says: Enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has established a special ministry for occupied Jerusalem affairs. He himself assumed the responsibility of running this ministry. He said that Israel will never return the occupied Arab territories, and that these territories will be consecrated to absorb hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jewish emigrants.

TISHRIN adds: Shamir's aggressive statements have come at a time when 34 states are holding a conference for European security and cooperation in Paris, and preparing to sign an official document that would end once and for all the cold war and its effects, and entrench detente in international relations.

TISHRIN stresses that the results of the European conference for security and cooperation will be limited if they do not tackle the Middle East crisis radically, especially since peace is an indivisible whole and cannot prevail in Europe and the world if it is missing in the Middle East region.

Talas Lauds Al-Asad's Position on Gulf

JN1711100690 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1815 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Damascus, 16 Nov (SANA)—As part of our people's celebration of the 20th anniversary of the blessed Corrective Movement, which was led by comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, visited one of our combat units in fraternal Lebanon.

He was accompanied by General 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of staff. He was received by commander of the Syrian forces in Lebanon, the commander of the formation, and its senior officers. [passage omitted]

Gen. Talas reviewed the fundamental causes that led to the launching of the Corrective Movement, how President al-Asad always regarded the mission of victory over the Zionist enemy as one of his top priorities, and how the former leadership used to adopt maneuvers, deceit, and delaying tactics, not measuring up to problems as it should have.

Gen. Talas added: Therefore, President al-Asad stood up to assume his natural responsibilities and lead the party and the state. Thus, he regained for Syria its natural position, strategic importance, and effective role on the international arena.

After reviewing the achievements of the Corrective Movement in the military, economic, social, political, and cultural fields, Gen. Talas spoke about the Gulf crisis and the suspicious role played by the Iraqi president, who seeks by occupying Kuwait to distract the attention of the world from the intensive immigration of Soviet Jews into Palestine and the overshadowing of the heroic Palestinian intifadah.

Gen. Talas noted the principled stance and the clear strategic vision of President Hafiz al-Asad when he directed some of our combat formation to defend the holy lands in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries. He also praised the president's distinguished position and his denunciation of unlimited U.S. support for Israel under the cover of the Gulf crisis.

Concluding his speech, Gen. Talas asserted that manifest victory will always side with the great man who can make wise decisions at critical, difficult times.

Talas Blasts Iraq for 'Fragmenting' Arab Nation

JN1811091690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Under the patronage of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad and as part of our Armed Forces festivities on the 20th anniversary of the blessed Corrective Movement, a celebration took place this morning on the graduation of a new batch of students from the Military College and on the graduation of a new batch of engineers.

Deputizing for the president in his patronage of the celebration was General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and defense minister. The ceremony was attended by General 'Ali Arslan, deputy chief of staff of the Army and the Armed Forces, and a number of comrade members of the Ba'th Party Regional Command and ministers. [passage omitted]

Gen. Mustafa Talas, representing the general commander, delivered a speech in which he conveyed the congratulations of leader al-Asad and wished the graduates success in their future tasks. He congratulated them on the 20th anniversary of the Corrective Movement which defined the course of the masses, and which has been characterized by clarity of vision, honest principles, and determination.

Gen. Talas affirmed in his speech that al-Asad's Syria is a source of heroism, manliness, and sacrifice, and a pioneer in firmly and resolutely leading the struggle and in confronting the crucial challenges and conspiracies concocted by the imperialist and Zionist circles against the Arab nation.

Gen. Talas said the unlimited U.S. support for Israel is neither new nor strange. However, what is strange is the furor created by the United States in calling for peace to prevail throughout the world while at the same time it grants Israel money and weapons, under the pretext of the Gulf crisis, to carry out its expansionist aggression against the Arab nation.

On the situation in Lebanon and the role of al-Asad's Syria in ending the state of mutiny and rebellion in that country, the general said: The elimination of this state has brought Lebanon into a new stage and entrenched a solid basis for starting the march of unity and liberation to restore the vitality of fraternal Lebanon, to which Syria has spared no aid or support so that it can play its national and pan-Arab role in the arena of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Discussing the Gulf crisis, Gen. Talas noted Iraq's role in fragmenting the Arab nation and squandering its potentials through the war it waged against the Iranian revolution and through its invasion of Kuwait. It thus provided the justification for bringing foreign troops to the region and for providing Israel with unlimited U.S. support under the pretext of Iraq's threat to use lethal weapons against it. [passage omitted]

Popular Bodies Advocate Arab Solution to Crisis

JN1511154690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Nov 90

["Text" of statement issued 15 November by "popular organizations and trade unions" to mark the 20th anniversary of the Corrective Movement]

[Excerpts] Our great masses: Our masses throughout the land, along with Arab masses beyond, are marking the 20th anniversary of the glorious Corrective Movement launched by the rank-and-file of our great Arab Socialist Ba'th Party led by its secretary general and president of the republic, struggler comrade Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Hence, we realize the acute sense of responsibility felt by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad toward the painful dilemma created by Iraq's rightwing fascist regime's occupation of Kuwait, thereby subverting nationalist impregnability. The occupation was a precedent incompatible with the true Arab nationalist spirit, and committed in the tradition of the law of the jungle, whereby the stronger party devours the weaker party, thus driving the latter to look for foreign protection—in effect, leading the Arab world to once again fall under the umbrella of outside forces out to gain mastery over it and its resources. This reckless invasion and the sense of fear, panic, and tragedy it has produced in the Gulf region has led to the invitation of foreign forces, when the Israeli enemy is out to realize its expansionist designs, and has split Arab ranks, marginalized the Arab-Zionist conflict, and introduced the Israeli enemy as a major player in promoting the West's strategic interests. The invasion has, in effect, pushed to the background the risks inherent in Jewish immigration and in the Zionist enemy's designs, as well as the intifadah of our kinfolk in the occupied territory. Only too aware of the dangers inherent in this invasion and its catastrophic consequences, and driven by a pan-Arab vision and the principled, wise, and courageous political stands of our trusted leader comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the party, we stand for an Arab-based solution to the crisis, predicated on an Arab decision the responsibility for which must be assumed by all the Arab countries. We stand for a solution that must call for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and a return to the status quo prior to the invasion, if we are to spare the region, the Arab nation, and the people of Iraq dangers and catastrophes. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Najibullah to Switzerland on Secret Peace Trip

BK2011003890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1807 GMT 19 Nov 90

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Text] Kabul, Nov 19 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibullah left Monday for Switzerland on a secret mission that diplomats and officials said was linked to an internationally backed initiative to end the Afghan civil war.

The 43-year-old president left the capital Kabul just before dawn on board an Ariana Afghan Airline Tupulov 154 aircraft, official sources said, adding that security in the city had since been stepped up.

Government Spokesman Humayun Mukammel told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that Mr. Najibullah was on a "working visit to Geneva" and it was "obviously for negotiations with the (Afghan) opposition."

Mr. Mukammel said he had no further details of Mr. Najibullah's sudden trip, which was announced by the state-owned Afghan television in its late night news programme 12 hours after his flight.

Western diplomats and official sources said Mr. Najibullah was likely to meet in Switzerland representatives of former King Zahir Shah, who now lives in self-imposed exile in Rome.

The ex-monarch, now in his mid-70s, is seen here as acceptable to both the Soviets and Americans, the two key foreign powers in the bloody Afghan conflict.

Western diplomats here said Geneva may have been chosen for secret talks between Mr. Najibullah and the mujahidin due to Switzerland's neutrality and Berne's pledge to help find a political settlement to the conflict.

The National Salvation Society, a group loyal to the former king, said Monday there had been some contact between Zahir Shah and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev during the latter's visit to Rome last week.

The moderate Afghan guerrilla groups have accepted the former king as a neutral figure who could bring about peace and unite the divided Afghan society. But extreme fundamentalist rebel groups are opposed to him.

It was not immediately clear how long Mr. Najibullah would be away or who was accompanying him. Airline sources said the authorities had requisitioned the Ariana aircraft with a promise to return it by "Tuesday or Wednesday."

Both Western and asian Diplomats described Mr. Najibullah's visit as "a major development," and said it could help break the deadlock in the Afghan conflict.

Mr. Najibullah launched a peace offensive with the lifting of the state of emergency in May, formed a cabinet dominated by ministers outside the ruling party and amended the constitution allowing economic and political pluralism.

However the Afghan resistance has rejected the initiatives as a "farce" and is demanding Mr. Najibullah's resignation before negotiations can begin.

Official sources and diplomats said Mr. Najibullah had been meeting representatives of Zahir Shah and different opposition groups informally during his visits to New Delhi and Paris in August and September.

The superpowers have said they have narrowed their differences over Afghanistan and were close to a settlement to end the conflict that has claimed more than one million lives since 1978.

Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil announced August 21 after a visit to Switzerland that Berne had promised to help bring about a political settlement to the country's dragging civil war.

Hikmatyar Group Announces 'Massive Operation'

BK1911115290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1134 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 19 (AFP)—The Afghan mujahidin faction led by Gulbuddin Hikmatyar announced a massive operation against government forces around Kabul, which it said was launched at dawn Monday.

The AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA), which the fundamentalist Hezb-e-Eslami faction controls, said heavy fighting began early Monday between the rebels and Kabul troops within the security perimeter around the Afghan capital.

ANA, reporting clashes in at least two provinces, Kabul and Lowgar, said a large munitions depot was destroyed in the Karizmir area of Shakardara District to the northwest of Kabul.

It said Mr. Hikmatyar himself had fired the first shot in the operation, in Lowgar Province south of the capital.

ANA said the campaign was a "joint operation of all the mujahidin" in the loose seven-party coalition, but diplomatic sources here doubted the claim.

Independent confirmation of the size and nature of the rebel operation was not immediately available.

Mujahidin Stronghold Near Kabul Bombarded

BK1611133690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1319 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Kabul, Nov 16 (AFP)—Afghan troops Friday launched heavy artillery attacks on a guerrilla stronghold near the capital as part of an operation to prevent rocketting of the city during winter, official sources said.

Security forces kept up a heavy barrage of rocket fire at suspected rebel bases in Sakardara, nearly 40 kilometers (25 miles) north of here, the sources said.

They said mujahidin guerrillas had been using Sakardara as a launching pad for rocket attacks on Kabul and Friday's government offensive was aimed at driving the guerrillas out of the region.

"This operation is a preemptive one. If they (guerrillas) are dislodged now, by winter it would be difficult for them to regroup and transport rockets to mountain peaks to fire on Kabul," an official source said.

Residents here heard continual artillery fire throughout Friday morning, and motorists were told by soldiers that the highway to Sakardara was shut due to fighting in the area.

It was not immediately clear whether there were any casualties in the government offensive. The authorities have been carrying out similar mopping-up operations in several areas near Kabul in recent weeks.

Mujahidin guerrillas fire rockets on the capital and other key cities in Afghanistan to put pressure on the Soviet-backed Kabul regime to step down.

Bangladesh

Gunmen Open Fire on Dhaka Opposition Rally

BK1611145490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1419 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 16 (AFP)—Gunmen on motorbikes opened fire and hurled seven homemade bombs on an opposition rally here Friday, injuring one activist, party sources said.

Eight riders left the scene quickly as six truckloads of police silently watched, the sources in the left-leaning five-party alliance charged, adding that the injured worker was being treated at a private clinic for splinter wounds.

Some 5,000 supporters of the alliance, headed by Nirmal Sen, were holding an anti-government rally.

Police also used batons when the workers marched towards the Kakrail area to protest the firing.

Several people were injured during the incident, when police closed several roads leading to the volatile Dhaka University campus.

The alliance sources accused the ruling Jatiya Party of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad for the attack and said it was an attempt to intimidate students who planned to lay siege Saturday to the houses of government ministers and MPs.

Police were not available immediately for comment, but ruling party sources said earlier that they would not tolerate "anarchy let loose by the opposition groups."

President Ershad Urges National Unity at Rally

BK1911165690 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] President Ershad has called for greater national unity to resist the present trend of destructive and (?anarchic) opposition politics. The unity is necessary for greater interests of peace, progress and stability in the country. Addressing a massive rally in Tongi today, the president also said that the present trend of politics was introduced (?after) Bangladesh had sent its troops to Saudi Arabia. The president said the decision of sending an Army contingent to Saudi Arabia was taken at the request of the Saudi Kingdom and to protect the holy cities of Mecca Muazzemah and al-Madinah Munawwarah. The president said the so-called opposition activities are not only destroying private and public property, but also killing people.

Referring to the recent killing of five workers at Adamjee Jute Mill, he said the innocent workers were killed by those who are involved in the present conspiracy to destabilize the country. President Ershad also pointed out that his government has made lots of efforts to improve the condition of the working class. He said his government would continue to do so if it remains in power. Vice President Moudud Ahmed and Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmad also addressed the rally.

Military Urges Opposition To Call Off Strike

BK1911033690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0219 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Article by Nadeem Qadir: "Rare Call to Opposition Raises Questions of Military's Motive"]

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 19 (AFP)—A rare call by Bangladesh's armed forces that opposition groups call off a planned strike because it coincides with Armed Forces Day has raised questions here about the real motives of the military.

Analysts here said President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, who heads the Defence Ministry, could be using it to tackle growing unrest or that the armed forces could be softening towards the opposition in an attempt to woo the public.

"No one can say for sure what is behind the statement, but nevertheless it is significant," one observer said.

It could also mean the armed forces will take a tougher stand against the opposition in the coming days, another analyst said.

"All political alliances, parties, students, labour organisations and all concerned have been requested to withdraw" the strike, the government press office said in a statement Saturday.

It said the strike would interfere with Wednesday's military celebrations, and that November 21 "is a glorious chapter in the libertation war of Bangladesh."

The statement was the first of its kind since Mr. Ershad seized power in a 1982 military coup. The armed forces have never issued a statement to the opposition on political matters.

A Defence Ministry official said the statement "had no political purpose... It is an important day and is observed with a lot of jubiliation every year."

The opposition groups had planned a 48-hour nationwide strike Tuesday as part of an ongoing campaign to oust Mr. Ershad and his eight-year-old government.

Opposition sources said they were discussing the statement, but had not made a decision whether to call off the strike.

"We have to take this seriously because it contains elements that have public sentiment attached, as the day is important in Bangladesh's history," one opposition source said.

Vice President Moudud Ahmed evaded questions on the subject during an informal meeting Saturday with local reporters.

"The government will contain opposition pressure politically and administratively," sources quoted him as saying.

Political observers warned that the statement could be a trick by Mr. Ershad because it came hours after he told the opposition that his government would work to curb the current unrest.

"My government will take all necessary steps to save the country from ongoing anarchy, terrorism and politics of destruction being carried out by some of the opposition parties in the name of the democratic movement," he told his supporters at a rally Saturday to counter an opposition students program.

He also accused unidentified foreign powers of inciting the opposition campaign.

One observer said the statement could also be a signal that the military was having a "softening attitude" towards the opposition and wanted to "dump everything that happened during the past eight years on Mr. Ershad as well as come out clean to the people."

Opposition leaders have often accused the president and his ruling circle of widespread corruption, and observers have said the military would like to distance themselves from such charges.

Opposition Groups Demand Ershad Resignation

BK2011044490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] In Bangladesh, three major opposition alliances have demanded the immediate resignation of President Ershad and handing over power to a nonparty and impartial person to act as the vice president as provided under the constitution. They said the vice president should be entrusted to hold free, fair, and impartial elections for the sovereign parliament within three months.

In a joint statement at separate rallies in Dhaka, the eight- party front led by the Awami League, the seven-party combine headed by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, and the left leaning five-party group and also some other political parties announced the agreement to participate in the parliamentary elections under the neutral caretaker government. The opposition parties have also demanded independence of the electronic media as also independence of the judiciary and the annulment of all laws detrimental to the fundamental rights of citizens.

Begin Nationwide Strike

BK2011050890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0431 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 20 (AFP)—Shops closed and roads were quiet here Tuesday during the start of a 24-hour, nationwide strike, part of a rejuvenated opposition campaign to oust Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

Police and paramilitary forces were deployed around Dhaka, especially around the government ministers' enclave, but they were less in number than during the last stoppage on November 10.

The strike hampered activities at the country's main port of Chittagong, residents there said by telephone.

Mr. Ershad, who seized power in a 1982 military coup and is Bangladesh's longest serving head of state, was due to leave later Tuesday for the Maldives to participate in a summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

SAARC, founded in Dhaka in 1985, groups Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives.

Bangladesh's three major opposition political alliances and several other smaller groups called the strike.

They are an eight-party alliance led by Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League, the seven-party coalition headed by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party of Begum Khalkeda Zia and a left-leaning, five-party grouping of Nirmal Sen.

The groups had called for a 48-hour stoppage, but reduced it to 24 hours on Monday after the armed forces appealed against a strike on Wednesday because it would interfere with armed forces day celebrations. It was the first time since the coup that the army had made such an appeal.

"We want to honour those freedon fighters who sacrificed their valuable lives for the independence of the country," the opposition's announcement said.

The mainstream opposition groups Monday simultaneously announced a constitutional framework to remove Mr. Ershad from power and install an interim neutral government.

One article provides for the resignation of the president through his writing a letter to his vice president, while the other allows for the appointment of a new vice president.

Political observers here said the opposition's offer was best for the country as it would help avoid a bloodbath.

Both Sheikh Hasina and Begum Khaleda Zia warned that if Mr. Ershad ignored this proposal the country may be pushed towards a "civil war."

They said the country faced acute anarchy and suffered from corruption and that the president should leave the country while there is still time for him to do so.

The opposition leaders said Mr. Ershad and his government would be forced to resign and would step down after dissolving parliament and handing over power to a vice-president accepted by major political groups.

They said the vice-president would automatically become the acting president and form an interim government, which would be responsible for holding parliamentary elections within three months after assuming power.

The opposition also demanded that the head of the interim government not belong to any political party and not be allowed to participate in national elections, nor any of its cabinet ministers.

The interim government would conduct regular administrative functions and revamp the election commission to assure free and fair elections, the opposition proposed.

Opposition House Ransacked

BK2011100490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0908 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 20 (AFP)—The home of an opposition leader was ransacked and her son injured as violence flared across the Bangladesh capital during a 24-hour anti-government strike Tuesday.

A five-year-old boy died in hospital after he was knocked down by a speeding police truck, doctors said, and a leftwing student leader was seriously injured in clashes with ruling party workers.

Three unidentified intruders were escorted away by police after breaking into the home of Begum Khaleda Zia, chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), party sources said. Her son Tareq Rahman was being treated for unspecified injuries at a private clinic, they added.

Witnesses said one of the intruders said he was a retired army officer and wanted to kill Begum Zia, who was not at home.

The house is located only a few hundreds metres (yards) from the residence of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and close to homes of several top army generals.

The BNP, along with other major opposition groups and smaller groups, called the nationwide strike as part of a revitalised campaign to oust President Ershad.

The strike call, backed by the eight-party alliance led by Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League, the seven-party coalition headed by the BNP, and the five-party left-leaning Nirmal Sen, came monday after the opposition jointly announced a constitutional framework for the removal of Mr. Ershad, who seized power in a 1982 military coup and is Bangladesh's longest serving head of state.

As the strike began to bite, angry activists burned an effigy of Mr. Ershad and paraded major streets shouting "action, action, direct action."

Student activists fought with police on the Dhaka University campus and were foiled in an attempt to set fire to the kitchen of a nearby police station.

Meanwhile Mr. Ershad left here for the Maldives to participate in a summit opening Wednesday of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) at the head of a nine-member delegation.

SAARC, founded in Dhaka in 1985, groups Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives.

The opposition groups had originally called for a 48-hour stoppage, but reduced it to 24 hours on Monday after the armed forces appealed against a strike on Wednesday because it would interfere with Armed Forces Day celebrations. It was the first time since the 1982 coup that the army had made such an appeal.

"We want to honour those freedom fighters who sacrificed their valuable lives for the independence of the country," the opposition said in a joint announcement.

The opposition's offer Monday of a constitutional framework for the removal of Mr. Ershad was best for the country as it would help avoid a bloodbath, political observers said here.

Both Sheikh Hasina and Ms. Begum Zia warned that if Mr. Ershad ignored this proposal the country may be pushed towards a "civil war."

The opposition leaders said Mr. Ershad and his government would be forced to resign and would step down after dissolving parliament and handing over power to a vice-president accepted by major political groups.

The interim government would conduct regular administrative functions, revamp the election commission to assure free and fair elections to be held within three months after it assumed power, the opposition proposed.

The opposition insist fair polls were not possible with Mr. Ershad, a former army general, in power.

Students Clash With Ruling Party Workers

BK1711093890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0916 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 17 (AFP)—At least 20 people were injured Saturday when several hundred students attacked a ruling Jatiya Party (JP) rally on a road leading to the residences of government ministers here, police and students said.

About 600 students belonging to the All Party Students Unity, (APSU) who marched from the Dhaka University campus, were seen storming the JP rally, breaking through heavy police barricades and forcing JP organisers to flee.

Police fired at least 50 teargas shells at the students, who showered them with stones and set off homemade bombs.

Works Minister Abul Hasnat came to the scene from another rally nearby to calm party members who complained of inadequate police support.

"Let the police do their job and we will do what is needed," he told some 50 agitated members of the JP bank employees' union.

Several thousand police and paramilitary security forces with automatic weapons guarded the the ministers' enclave in Minto Road, close to the sheraton hotel. A park separating the university campus and the ministers' enclave was also heavily guarded.

The APSU planned to gather around the homes of ministers, MPs [members of parliament] and "corrupt" bureaucrats as part of a campiagn to oust President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and his eight-year-old government.

Mr. Ershad, chairman of the JP, addressed his supporters at two rallies, but details were not immediately available.

Students also burned the president in effigy before leaving the campus for the ministers' enclave.

Police fought back, firing teargas shells and forcing the students to take shelter in the nearby Institute of Post Graduate and Medicine (IPGMR) and small alleys.

At least five teargas shells fell into the IPGMR premises, causing problems for patients there, hospital staffs said.

Students also set fire to four vehicles, including one government-owned double-decker bus and a garbage truck.

Police fired several rounds when the JP rally was attacked.

Amanullah Aman, an APSU leader and vice president of the powerful Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that "We do not need to seige the area, the government has mobilised its entire machinery to face several thousand students."

"They have done our job already," he said.

One police officer, annoyed with the complaints of the JP supporters, said "we have given them cover, but we cannot fight their political war."

Police and students continued to throw bricks at each other and in some cases the activists tossed back teargas shells wrapped in wet clothes.

One police officer was heard asking for more teargas shells, saying "we have run out tear gas, please send more."

Student activists also attacked a police box in the new Elephant Road area and damaged windowpanes as well as setting ablaze three police motorbikes. Three passing cars were also damaged.

Another car owned by a foreign aid agency was torched in nearby new market area.

Students also held a brief rally in Mouchak area for what they said was to create traffic jam in all major Dhaka streets.

"Ershad's fall is inevitable, and friends, we have to remain united in our fight to get rid of killer Ershad," student leader Naimuddin told the small rally.

Traffic throughout the capital was disrupted.

Security agency members limited access to journalists in vehicles marked "press," the first such incident in the most recent wave of anti-government agitation begun October 10.

The latest agitation has so far claimed 20 lives and left scores injured.

The opposition for the last eight years has been campaigning for the resignation of Mr. Ershad—a former army general who seized power in a 1982 military coup—and for free and fair elections under an interim neutral government.

They insist that such polls were impossible if Mr. Ershad remains in power.

But Mr. Ershad has rejected such demands and have called for talks with the opposition on holding elections acceptable to them, which too was ignored by his rivals.

India

Shekhar Speaks on Issues Facing Nation

BK2011051490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, says the Indian society will not survive if it fails to comprehend the anxieties of its minorities and remove them. In an interview to a German weekly, he pointed out that any confrontation on the Ayodhya temple issue will break the Indian society into pieces. He said mutual understanding must be found out through discussion and dialogue. If that is not possible, the court verdict on the issue should be accepted by everyone.

The prime minister defended the job reservation policy for the backward castes and said that the obsolete caste system, people belonging to certain castes have remained backward and they are also poor. [as heard]

Mr. Chandra Shekhar warned Pakistan for its support to secessionist forces in the country. He said the whole subcontinent is a region of poverty and if the countries of the region fight with each other it will not be possible to fight poverty.

Protest Lodged With Pakistan on Border Firing

BK1911155690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] India today lodged a strong protest with Pakistan after Pakistani rangers fired on a BSF [Border Security Force] border post in Amritsar District to provide cover to the militants. The BSF returned the fire, foiling the attempts of the intruders to sneak into the Indian territory in the Ajnala sector. Indian officials have also demanded a flag meeting with their Pakistani counterparts to discuss the issue.

Simultaneous Bombs Blast Punjab Clubs

BK1711033290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] In Punjab, 20 persons were injured, six of them seriously, in simultaneous bomb blasts in two local clubs in Chandigarh last evening. The bombs, which were attached with time devices, caused extensive damage to the buildings. The injured were immediately rushed to the hospital where their condition is reported to be out of danger.

Punjab District Attacks Leave 10 Dead

BK1711070390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists shot dead 10 persons and injured eight in Faridkot District this morning. According to an official spokesman, some terrorists armed with automatic weapons came in a jeep to the waterworks outside village Kilianwali and opened indiscriminate fire on a group of people. The victims were having an early morning walk near that place. The security forces have since launched a massive manhunt for the culprits. Police and security forces in the neighboring districts have been alerted.

29 Killed in Separate Incidents in Punjab

BK1811093590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] In Punjab, eight terrorists and nine policemen are amongst 29 people killed in separate incidents since last evening. According to an official spokesman, six terrorists and three security force personnel were killed and 11 security force personnel were injured in a fierce encounter near village Gore Nangal in Amritsar District. The encounter lasted for over 12 hours. A large quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered from the killed terrorists. In another encounter in the same district, two terrorists were killed in Khemkaran area. In Hoshiarpur District, terrorists opened fire on a religious congregation near Balachor Town, killing six persons and injuring two. Elsewhere in the state, terrorists shot dead five persons including three policemen in Amritsar District, three policemen in Gurdaspur District, a couple in Ferozepore District, and two brothers in Bhatinda District.

Curfew in Assam Town Following Arson, Clashes

BK1711070590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] In Assam, curfew has been clamped down in Hailakandi town and its suburbs from 1130 today following incidents of arson and group clashes. Official sources told All India Radio Silchar correspondent that police had to burst tear gas shells in several parts of the town and fire in one place last night to disperse a violent mob. The situation is now stated to be tense but under control. It may be mentioned that curfew was earlier imposed on the town on the 24th of October and was lifted on the 10th of November.

Three Killed in Assam, Army Called Out

BK1811093290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] In Assam, three persons were killed and 12 injured when an unruly mob attacked their houses last night and burned some of the hutments in two villages near curfew-bound Hailakandi town. The Army has been called out to assist the civil administration in maintaining law and order. AIR [All India Radio] Silchar correspondent quoting official sources reports that the situation in Hailakandi District is tense but under control.

Iran

Paper Calls for United Front Against U.S.

LD1911153590 [Clandestine] Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] The English-language newspaper KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, published in Tehran, called for the formation of a united front comprising Iran, [word indistinct], Algeria, Sudan, Cuba, North Korea, and Vietnam, against the United States. This newspaper which, it is said, reflects the views of the hardliner cicles of the Islamic Republic's regime, has proposed that the front's forces be based in Iraq.

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL has also called on the leaders of the regime to support Iraq and Saddam Husayn.

Calls for Boycott of Hajj

LD2011090190 Tehran IRNA in English 0725 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 20 IRNA—An Iranian daily Tuesday [20 November] urged the government to announce its official stand concerning participation of the Iranian pilgrims in the hajj rituals. The English daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL said in its editorial, "in case the Islamic Government has decided that as long as the blasphemous foreign troops are stationed in the holy lands of Hejaz, Muslims from Iran will not set foot there, its decision should be promptly announced."

It continued "other Muslim nations may think it right to follow in the steps of Iranian Muslims, even if their 'ulema, most of whom are government servants, advise them to go to pilgrimage."

The daily was commenting on the Sunday [18 November] statements of the late leader's son Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni calling for participation of Muslims especially Iranians in hajj rituals especially now that American forces are present in Saudi Arabia.

"One really wonders as to why this opportunity is not being taken advantage of by Iranian officials," said the daily adding that "nevertheless, the situation can be easily, with some planning, turned into a very embarrassing one for the Al Sa'ud and become extremely harassing for the United States."

It is time to do something, said the daily, "the Muslims of the world are not wrong if they look up to the Islamic Republic of Iran to take that initiative."

Khomeyni Stresses Advanced Arms, Self-Sufficiency

LD1811171390 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Personnel of the Logistics Industries and Reconditioning [Nowsazi] of Iran's Helicopters [LIRIH], a subsidiary of the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics, accompanied by a group of sportsmen and others, met with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni at Hoseyniyeh-e Jamaran today. During the course of this meeting, after a report by Brigadier General Azin, director general of LIRIH, on the activities of the employees of these industries toward achieving self-sufficiency in the country, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni paid tribute to the employees of LIRIH for their endeavors during the eight years of holy defense.

Referring to the fact that the people's support for the Islamic revolution is the revolution's greatest backing, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khomeyni said: During the recent developments in the Persian Gulf region, we all witnessed how the shaykhs of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia became indigent and destitute [as heard] because they lacked the support of their country's people.

The Al Sa'ud rulers, despite possessing the most advanced equipment, have no alternative but to use U.S. and Western experts, because they have distanced themselves from their own people.

He added: If we wish to defend our revolution and national honor, we have no alternative but to arm ourselves with the most sophisticated equipment. In order to realize this objective, we should rely on the talent of our own people only so that we can reach military self-sufficiency thanks to the innovations and creativity of the country's committed and sincere forces.

He further stressed the need for paying fundamental and careful attention to the country's economic affairs. Referring to the Islamic Republic of Iran's previous stand on the hajj issue, he said: Under the existing circumstances whereby the presence of U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia has gravely undermined the Saudi regime's prestige, this regime needs the presence of the Muslims, particularly the Iranian Muslims, at the hajj rituals. If the Saudi regime wishes to attract the Iranian pilgrims to Mecca, it should then pay the price for supporting Iraq in the course of the imposed war, and should answer the cry rising from the blood of more than 400 martyrs who were helplessly martyred during the Hajj rituals. It should also accept Iran's conditions on the number of pilgrims and their demonstrations on disavowal of the infidels during the hajj rituals.

Khamene'i Attends Air Force Graduation Ceremony

LD1911123190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Excerpts] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the honorable leader of the Islamic revolution and commander in chief of the armed forces, attended a graduation and award ceremony at the Air Force college this morning in which he presented diplomas and permits to college graduates and epaulettes to new students.

In the ceremony, the Commander in Chief His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i addressed a speech to the units stationed in the area in which he spoke of the Persian Gulf events as a reason for further strengthening the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The leader of the Islamic revolution said that faith is a strong victory-giving foundation for the combatants of Islam and said: The Persian Gulf events have demonstrated that our armed forces must strengthen themselves from the viewpoint of advanced military equipment; repair and maintenance; organization within the forces; defense industries; combat science and technologies; and constant and continuous exercises. And they must give Islamic devotion and faith—which is a way of gaining supremacy over enemies—the first order of importance. [passage omitted]

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i referred to the hollowness of world powers and graciously said: Other nations have learned from the Iranian nation that they must not be terrorized by big powers because their show

of power is a false claim, and today we can see that fact which was taught to our nation and to other nations by the eminent late imam.

The commander in chief spoke of the United States as a defeated superpower and graciously said: The Persian Gulf events have shown that the arrogant power of the United States is hollow from within, and it can be said that whether that attack lasts a long time or ends rapidly, the U.S. claim to being a superpower has already been defeated and there is no need for a military engagement to prove that; it is a fact, rather, that our revolution has proved it with strength, confidence, and faith, relying on unerring historical experience and on decisive divine traditions.

The commander in chief spoke of the U.S. military invasion of Tabas in 1980 and the ignominious defeat of that country's government as another demonstration of the weakness and desperation of the United States. Stressing that Iran and the region have always been a testing ground for great experiences, he graciously said: the Islamic Revolution has now closed the path to the mischiefmaking, aggression, and shameless acts of enemies, and the bravery and effectiveness of our armed forces must keep that path forever closed to global arrogance.

Addressing the Air Force personnel, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i graciously said: Seeing the faithful and proud youth of our country, who are successfully completing the most difficult stages of air expertise and related sciences in our dear Islamic homeland, is a fact of great victory and cause for joy and hope.

Concluding his remarks, the eminent leader conveyed his congratulations to the new students on their entry into the Air Force college and commemorated the memories of martyr Major General Baba'i, Brigadier General Khazra'i, and other Air Force martyrs. [passage omitted]

Yazdi Says Peace With Iraq on 'Natural Course'

LD1811230490 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Mr. Yazdi, head of the Judicial Branch, pointed to the importance of the trip taken by our country's foreign minister to Baghdad, saying that fortunately the peace trend between Iraq and Iran is following its natural course, despite the crisis in the Persian Gulf, and the brief for peace between Iran and Iraq is separate from that of the Persian Gulf crisis.

Mr. Yazdi, who spoke to the consultative meeting of the Judicial Branch, added that deciding on the resumption of the exchange of POW's was another important issue on this trip. He also thought that another issue concerning the trip was the start of the pilgrimages to the sacred sites of both countries. First priority will be granted to the respected families of martyrs, the missing-in-action and the self-sacrificing devotees [war disabled]. Planning should be precise to enable those who have sacrificed their children along the path of Islam and the Koran to make their early prilgrimage to Islam's holy sites.

Yazdi Comments on Pilgrimages to Iraqi Holy Sites

LD1911093590 Tehran International Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] In today's meeting of the oficials of the Judicial Branch, Mr. Yazdi, referring to the importance of Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati's trip to Baghdad, considered that decisions made over the resumption of the exchange of POW's and pilgrimages to the holy sites of the two countries were among the important achievements of this trip.

He said: Relevant officials should take note that the number of people wishing to go on this pilgrimage from Iran are not comparable with those from Iraq, either in terms of numbers or issues concerning faith [as heard]. He added: The Iraqi Government should declare that it is ready to accept the greatest possible number of pilgrims so that our officials can respond to the demands and enthusiasm of the Muslim people for going on pilgrimage to the holy sites in Iraq.

The head of the Judicial Branch emphasized that priority will be given to the families of martyrs, missing-in-action, and the selfless devotees [war disabled]. He said: The government's supervision of these trips is necessary and essential under current circumstances and we hope that in the not too distant future, with the normalization of relations between the two countries, all the Islamic ummah will be able to make the pilgrimage to the pure shrine of the holy Abu-'Abdollah Hoseyn—may God's peace be upon him—as well as to the rest of the holy sites of Islam.

Commentary Examines Efforts To Release Hostages

NC1711214390 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Lebanese Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss met yesterday with the families of the four Iranians held hostage by the Phalangist forces. These families called on the Lebanese Government to exert its utmost efforts to ascertain the fate of their sons. The families of the four Iranian hostages arrived in Beirut last Tuesday as part of a tour to draw the attention of world public opinion to these hostages' fate. [passage omitted]

At a news conference they held in West Beirut on Thursday, these families told Lebanese and foreign correspondents that there are several signs that these four diplomatic hostages are still alive and in a detention camp.

When he received the Iranian hostages' families, 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said: We demand the release of all hostages, Western and non-Western, Iranians and Lebanese. We are determined to close the file of hostage kidnapping forever. 'Allamah Fadlallah

added that the visit by the Iranian hostages' families to a number of Western countries and Lebanon has succeeded in drawing the attention of world public opinion to an important issue—that kidnapping hostages does not only concern Westerners. Iranians have been kidnapped in Lebanon by parties who support the West.

It must be said that from the moment the problem of kidnapping appeared in Lebanon, the Western media has sought to shed light only on the conditions of the Western hostages. This has been to a degree that has eclipsed all concerns over the conditions of Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners in Zionist camps and also eclipsed the issue of non-Western hostages, including the Iranian ones. The interest in the issue of Western hostages in Lebanon is a correct one from the humanitarian point of view, but the intentional disregard of the rights of others, such as those of the Muslim Palestinians and the Lebanese, cannot be justified in any way whatsoever.

It is a known and evident fact that the influence of the West and the United States with the Phalangists and the Zionist entity is limitless. The West can exert pressure on the Phalangists and Israel to release the Iranian hostages and the Palestinian and Lebanese detainees.

*RESALAT Report on 2 Oct Majles Session

91AS0104A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
3 Oct 90 pp 5, 8

[Text]

Plan To Remove Liberals, Hojjatieh From Key Posts Rejected

Legal and Parliamentary Division—The Majles held an open session yesterday morning chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemiyan.

In this session, after remarks by the deputies from Masjed-e Soleyman, Orumiyeh, Rasht, and Zanjan, the Majles was called to order.

The following is the text of the pre-agenda speeches and a detailed account of the discussions:

Jahansha Danesh, the Representative of the People of Masjed-e Soleyman: Constant Evaluation of Managers' Strength Is Certain To Result in Neglecting the Implementation of Plans

The first preagenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Danesh, the representative of the people of Masjed-e Soleyman, who in his remarks stated:

The grand slogans, a tribute to the gentleness, labor, and final endeavors of the body of the Islamic Republic regime, after 11 and a half years of manly defense of the Islamic revolution by the Iranian nation must swiftly be turned toward reconstruction by utilizing all available resources and within a practical time frame. It must be such that the achievement of each program should realize the overall satisfaction of the honorable nation. If we continue, day and night, to evaluate and measure the strengths of managers we will certainly neglect the implementation of plans. We are one and a half years into the Five-Year Plan. The officials must be accountable for what has been done rather than offering prayers. Are we not behind with the schedule of the plan? Decisive management in the administration of affairs, precise calculations and design of accurate timetables for implementation of plans, and delegation of power within the framework of justice, strengthen the furthering of the objectives of the projects and result in the satisfaction of the martyr-nurturing people, which is the fundamental objective. What is law? Whom must offer guarantees? An in-depth study of our society shows that we must work more and talk less because, ultimately, Iran is a distinct model. We must determine and chart the limits for all matters of concern, which is the wish of the next generation of self-sacrificers. Also, we must think and work systematically, alertly, bearing in mind the interests of the society, act with and maintain dispatch in our endeavors.

He then pointed out the problems of his constituency and said: The state of health and treatment in Masjed-e Soleyman is a sorry state of affairs. In the years after the revolution, not one person can be found who is satisfied with the status of health and treatment in this city. Shortages of doctors, medical facilities, medicine, hypodermic needles, and hospital beds still prevail. Also, the rural dispensary of Haft-Gel is used by over 40,000 people and the service of a single ambulance is utilized. No use of the local youth has been made in administration of the city region—despite the existence of many honest, hezbollahi, sincere, and capable young people in that region. I request from dear brother Engineer Tavalai, the governor general of Khuzestan, to investigate this problem which has transformed from a political problem to a social problem. It is surprising that officials who are good speakers, who seem to be capable, are transferred. The people of Masjed-e Soleyman have said many times and asked if their city is the proving ground for zero-mile [inexperienced] managers?! So far no one has offered a positive answer to this question.

Concluding his remarks, while thanking the officials in his constituency, he requested that the Petroleum Ministry investigate Masjed-e Soleyman's natural gas situation.

Beytollah Ja'fari, the Representative of the People of Urumieh: Our Ballots Are Not for A Single Expert But for a Mandate for Permanence of the Regime and Velayat-e Faqih

The next speaker was Mr. Ja'fari, the representative of the people of Urumieh. In his remarks, in reference to Solidarity Week, he said: At the outset of Solidarity Week, it is required of all to intensify the strength of our ranks by seeking spiritual strength from the everlasting spirit of the prophet of Islam (God bless him and grant him salvation) and Imam Sadeq (peace be upon him)—especially at a time when the obvious enemy of Islam and its allies is present in the Persian Gulf and the sacred land of Hijaz. We must not permit that one day the

government and another day the Majles or the esteemed Assembly of Experts are weakened. Such an act, be it perpetrated by clever enemies or ignorant friends, is treachery to Islam. Selfishness must be pushed aside and the interest of the regime must be taken into consideration. The forces of heresy and hypocrisy are always waiting in ambush. Today we are in another phase of divine tests. With active participation in the elections for the experts, endorsed by the Council of Guardians—which itself enjoys the imam's confirmation—we should deliver a heavy blow to the mouths of idle-talkers. This ballot is not one for a single expert. indeed, it is a vote for the permanence of the regime and Velayat-e Faqih [rule of the supereme jurisconsult]. Anyone who engages in obstructionism is responsible before God. Accusing the officials of the regime of seeking dominance is an old and rusty weapon left over from the black-hearted hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq] and the alert nation will not be deceived by such rumors. The same people who once accused the imam and his students, such as Beheshti, of seeking dominance are now using the voices of the politically ignorant and are trying to depict the combatants of Beheshti as dogmatic. No matter what their motivation, they have been deceived and will have to face the nation who obeys the leader of the time. They will suffer the same inauspicious consequence as others who were deceived.

In his remarks, he added: Today Iran is on the peak of glory. The revolution is on the peak of glory. The pulse of history is beating in Tehran. The world has confessed to us and, since our righteousness has been proven, our most vehement antagonists have knelt before us. We should not concentrate on displaying the differences but, instead, we must close ranks in order to expel the enemy from the blue waters of the Persian Gulf. This is our foremost obligation.

Mr. Ja'fari also made mention of a statement which was read by a deputy from the pulpit of the Majles and said: Last Sunday a deputy in his pre-agenda speech read a statement attributed to the deputies and urged everyone to sign it. There are two points here. We proclaim that before it was signed by the deputies, the deputy did not have the right to attribute it to them. He could, however, mention the number of deputies who endorsed it rather than submitting it in the name of the Majles deputies. We hope that in such instances, in the future, adequate consideration is exercised.

The speaker then referred to the problems of his constituency and said: With thanks for the visit of Ayatollah Yazdi to West Azarbaijan, we are awaiting the appropriate actions to confront the injustices of the tribal chieftains, to resolve the situation concerning agricultural land and resolution of judicial issues. In particular, the exalted families of martyrs insist on the speedy investigation of the problems they have submitted. Civil servants—especially the education employees who see themselves as step-brothers of the government—are tired of and complain about empty promises. They consider the promises as hollow drums which their sound, even from afar, are bothersome. Civil servants do not seek extra money or empty promises. They long for a break in the spiral of inflation, through support for cooperatives, housing facilities, and welfare services. Due to shortages of fuel, factories in the region have been forced to shut down. The autumn harvest has been delayed. I ask the esteemed petroleum minister to personally supervise the implementation of the decisive decisions adopted during the meetings at the Petroleum Ministry on Monday, 1 Oct 1990. I ask the provincial officials to pay attention to the problems facing the vegetable market, the bazaar merchants, and those whose shops and homes, in spite of their religious duties [as published], are on the verge of destruction.

I request that the military and political officials put an end to the instigations of the enemies of Islam because every day we have to face the mutilated body of a loved one. You the great ones! When do you want to root out the lackeys of America in Azarbaijan and Kordestan? I request from the esteemed deputy for treatment and the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education to act precipitously upon providing lithotripsy equipment [to crush kidney stones]—which its foreign exchange and rial credit has been allocated by the presidency and the appropriate proforma has been approved—as a kind consideration toward the deprived region.

Concluding his remarks, the representative of the people of Urumieh criticized the anti-revolutionary views of Ahmad Shamlu in the magazine DONYA-YE SOKHAN and said:

I draw the attention of the officials, the custodians of the press in general and the Ministry of Islamic Guidance in particular, to the infiltration of deviant and villainous individuals and ideas, from the left or the right, in publications. It has come to the point where Ahmad Shamlu in the magazine DONYA-YE SOKHAN explicitly questions the revolution, history, and all that is sacred to the great nation of Iran. Since this speech was delivered before a crowd of monarchists in socialist-zionist France and then published in Islamic Iran and, later, the same gentleman shows up in America and is the subject of the imperialists' kind attention. What sort of good will is this when the very roots of the Islamic revolution and the blood of martyrs are being assaulted?

Elyas Hazrati, the Representative of the People of Rasht: As Children of This Revolution, We Must Be Very Sensitive About the Future, the Decisions of the Regime, and Its Method of Movement

Mr. Hazrati, the representative of the people of Rasht, was the third pre-agenda speaker. In the outset of his remarks he stated: No one has any doubt that, beside the imam, no other person in our theological centers and universities possessed the intellect and philosophical idea for an Islamic revolution. It was the imam who—by bringing up discussions about an Islamic government, velayat-e faqih, and various aspects of an Islamic system—provided us with a grasp of the subject and formed such a sacred system. As children of this revolution, we must be very

sensitive about the future, the decisions of the regime and its method of movement and as long as we have a breath of life in us, we cannot be indifferent to it.

In continuation he added: As you well know, after the revolution, in general, and after the year 1360 [21 Mar 81-20 Mar 82], in particular, we have had three different factions in jurisdiction. At times, they were referred to as "the first line, the second line, and the third line" or "the conservative faction, the reformist faction, and the radicals" or "the rightists, the moderates, and the leftists" and other such names. I do not agree much with these interpretations. However, the subject of my discussion here is the imam's approach in dealing with the three factions. His Eminence the Imam—in all phases, in various forms and in different cross sections—tried to maintain equilibrium and make the best use of every faction where they possessed specific strengths in a field. If a faction possessed executive capabilities, popular ideological and political strengths, or scientific know-how, he tried to appropriately utilize such capabilities and maintain balance. He tried to avoid prompting the thought within a faction that it is being excluded from command and the responsibility of the regime has been put on the shoulder of another faction. Under all circumstances and within the context of all scenarios, the imam tried to preserve this balance. Whenever it was felt that a certain faction seeks to dominate the command, the imam—with any excuse or reason he could find—would try to mention the names of individuals associated with other factions in order to maintain this equilibrium, so that everyone would feel included. I personally believe that there are revolutionary and dedicated individuals in both factions—although some might have faults or advantages—and His Eminence the Imam split the principal, tangent, and scientific matters among these individuals.

The speaker added: In continuation of the thoughts of His Eminence the Imam and the emphasis of the exalted leadership, we are responsible and have a mission to continue on this path—ever more diligently—due to the increased complication of world affairs. All three factions must be employed. God forbid, it should not be felt as if the dear ones who are presently active are of the opinion that, "since the imam is no more, we should take advantage of the opportunity to gain advantage and—since we control a newspaper—from time to time we can smear someone's name, make accusations, or seek to dominate the rule." I proclaim here that you are gravely mistaken. By God, you will destroy the revolution with such a mentality.

He said: We offer our thanks to Mr. Azari-Qomi who officially announced that, with the passing of the imam, these matters are concluded. However, there are some who avoid making such statements. They claim to follow the imam's path but, in practice, they seek to eliminate. Elimination of a faction and putting the control of affairs in the hands of a single faction is among the most dangerous matters which can effect our rule.

In another part of his remarks, Mr. Hazrati referred to the presence of the people on the scene and said: I remember in the second Majles the prevailing idea was that only the jurists can become candidates for the Majles. His eminence the imam immediately interceded and questioned such a thinking. Such an idea is much more dangerous than the idea of separation of church and state. He then announced that "students, bazaar merchants, farmers, and people from all walks of life can become candidates."

In reference to the candidates for the Assembly of Experts, he said: Why did you the representatives of the imam and Friday Prayer leaders, who are the pillars of the revolution and the arms of the imam, decided to eliminate such individuals? Don't you believe in the presence of the people and their role? Our revolution and the regime counts on the people and faith in God as its bases of support.

In conclusion, the representative of the people of Rasht said: There was mention of someone who is not famous for his piety but owns a 70 million toman house. I do not wish to defend this gentleman, but please refrain from starting such discussions about fame for piety or 70 million toman homes because it will result in the opening of dossiers of many individuals.

Assadollah Bayat, the Representative of the People of Zanjan: I Am Prepared To Be Tested Along With the Majority of the Jurists of the Council of Guardians and Score a Better Point Than Them

The last pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Majles was Assadollah Bayat, from the constituency of Zanjan and Tarem Oliya.

At the outset of his remarks, he stated: I was not planning to speak and if the remarks made by Mr. Emami-Kashani in the Friday prayer sermons were within the standards and measures of jurisprudence I would not have felt the need to speak.

He added: In these talks, I noted that the foundation for a new heresy is being laid and it would be sacrilegious for me if I do not express my point of view. I have no recourse but to bring out some points and discuss some issues here. The most important issue is that, with the method that has been adopted by these gentlemen, great scholars and clergy who achieved high degrees of piety and scholastic recognition over a long period of time—perhaps a thousand years—have been insulted by these gentlemen. From 169 people only 109 measured up to the "piety meter" that has been installed in the Council of Guardians. Recently, this fact has become clear for me that these gentlemen have installed a "religious meter, piety meter" and one of the brothers who had achieved high marks on his written and oral exams was disqualified as a result of the testimonies of two individuals who were against him. A true jurist knows that their testimonies are not acceptable. A jurist does not speak like this. A jurist must be aware of the effect of perception. Mr.

Karrubi has been endorsed by about nine of the greats and scholars of Qom, including Ayatollah Soltani and Ayatollah Fazel-Lankerani.

Bayat added: As a deputy who, from time to time, prayed behind these gentlemen in Friday Prayers, I must say here that I am in doubt about their qualification as Friday Prayer leaders. I can no longer pray behind these gentlemen in Friday Prayers unless they reveal the identity of the witnesses. Also, the very same scholars who made the confirmation wanted to know who were those who appeared before the panel and stated that this person is not just, that person is not pious and this person lacks scholastic qualifications. If Mr. Emami-Kashani does not reveal the identity of the witnesses, between the two of us and our God, I have enough doubts about their qualification to be able to pray behind them. These gentlemen should pay attention to this important issue.

Our worries about this case are that, this is not an election but, regretfully, a selection. Why should you rely on the people to vote? Why do you uselessly talk about the people? Dear Gracious Brothers! The numbers of your candidates in many provinces are less than the required numbers. It is not necessary that the people go and cast their ballots for these. It will suffice if their own wives vote for them. Even this may not be necessary, since they may be having disputes with their wives, and it will suffice if they vote for themselves. We considered all the best angles in that resolution. We offered our legal and scientific views but became the subject of attacks. Assertions to the effect that this resolution is bad and this resolution has negative repercussions were made. You are practically witnessing this case. You decided that the majority must be relative and, on the other hand, introduced three people in a place where there are four candidates.

Why are you spoiling the imam's 10-year toils, after the revolution, and his 15 years of endeavors? Why don't you allow the people to partake on the scene through healthy competition and express their views? Is this not dangerous? We must be united to confront the criminal America's presence in the region. With what you might ask? By maintaining the values of the revolution.

You leach-like capitalists cannot fight with America. Instead of the green light, there is no doubt that they [the Council of Guardians] have signaled America and England with powerful beacons. With what force do you wish to fight them? God knows that, with this move, they have shown to be lacking the qualification prescribed in the Constitution for jurists of the Council of Guardians. One of the qualifications, per the Constitution, is awareness of prevailing circumstances. Have they demonstrated to be aware of the prevailing circumstances? Have you noted the repeated warnings of the imam concerning the Council of Guardians? Why do you preserve only some of the imam's statements and discard the rest?

In continuation, Bayat remarked: I state unequivocally that three grand scholars endorsed me. Nine scholars endorsed Mr. Karrubi. A number of scholars endorsed Mr. Jami. This person was a member of the Assembly of Experts for eight years. Was he then qualified to verify leadership qualities? If he was qualified, then why did you put him aside? If he was not, then his initial ballot must be discarded also. Why are you violating your principals? As a theological student, I explicitly proclaim here, and I have told them in person also, that I am ready; I have studied Sacred Persuasion with Ayatollah Meshkini; I have participated in Ayatollah Fazel's classes; I have participated in the imam's classes; I have been in the classes of Mr. Damad; I have been in the classes of Mr. Ha'eri. I am prepared to be tested, in the presence of these teachers, along with the jurists of the Council of Guardians and will, most likely, have better marks than most of them. What sort of move is this which is being perpetrated by these people?

In continuation, he said: It has been our belief that, as we followed the imam in the past, at first we obeyed the exalted leadership. The clergy association [Majma' Rowhaniyun] has announced this time and again and, between us and our God, they have never said anything contrary to this view. However, regretfully, these brothers have been spreading lies, rumors, accusations, and allegations—that have originated from unknown sources—about me. In conclusion, I give warning and say this to the dependent newspaper...In God and all that is sacred, the damage suffered by the clergy from this newspaper has been worse than any from other sources during 1,400 years. Please check and see the impact of the letter of our brother, His excellency Mr. Haj Seyyed Hamid Rowhani, in the society. You have come forward with your infamous plan. Go and ask Ayatollah Fazel to find out how the letter for the plan was prepared. In God, if I had time, I would tell you about some issues. Some of those jurists of the Council of Guardians have said in a place (I will tell you where, if you ask me) that the jugular of these people [Bayat's group] is in our hand and we must settle the score now. Is this how a jurist of the Council of Guardians should talk, instead of acting in accordance with the principals? We are from God and we shall return to Him. This passage was once recited by the imam for certain people and, today, I recite it for some of these gentlemen. God willing, I hope they awake and become alert.

[The Koranic verse above is recited in the aftermath of a person's death. If recited in reference to a person alive, it has the same symbolic overtone as the sending of a dead fish to a Sicilian]

The Majles Resolutions

The first item on the agenda during yesterday's open session of the Majles was the continuation of the investigation of the report of the first round of deliberations concerning the legal plan "to remove and bar liberals and members of the Hojjatieh from key and sensitive posts in the country." After remarks by opponents and proponents

and the reporter of the commission, as the representative of the government, Mr. Mohajerani in his remarks stated: It appears that, if we wish for the law to be one to resolve a problem, we must inevitably offer all encompassing definitions of liberal and Hojjatieh members.

In another part of his remarks, he said: Mr. Mozaffarinezhad pointed out that such definitions may apply to some government ministers. Well, what form might it take? Cabinet minister are individuals who gained your vote of confidence. However, based on personal preference, some may say this minister has Hojjatieh tendencies while 160 others disagree and cast their votes of confidence. Then, the four cannot impose their views.

While pointing out that the Majles deputies are elected by the people and endorsed by the Council of Guardians in order for their credentials to be approved by the Majles, the vice president for parliamentary affairs said: After these phases, it does not concern any other deputy to assert that he does or does not ascribe to Hojjatieh ideas. Within this cross section, if there were any desire to distinguish if a deputy was a liberal or a Hojjatieh sympathizer, we should have acted at that time. Mr. Mohajerani, the vice president for parliamentary affairs, emphasized: In my view, the collection of discussions that have been brought up bears no benefits other than busying an already busy world.

He added: If the esteemed deputies strongly believe that a liberal or Hojjatieh sympathizer may be precisely defined during the second deliberation, then this law can be useful. However, since I seriously think it cannot be done and it is a difficult task, it will bear no fruit other than us passing a law that cannot be implemented and, thus, contribute to the creation of an environment conducive to misunderstanding, suspicion, and deviation.

After the remarks of Mr. Mohajerani, the vice president for parliamentary affairs, the generalities of the said plan was put to a vote, and it did not pass and was rejected.

The Triple-Urgency Plan

The second item on the agenda, "the plan to affix the number of candidates for elections", was presented to the Majles, bearing 20 [as received] signatures, with triple urgency. In the single article of this plan, which was immediately considered for discussion, it is stated:

"From the date of enactment of this law, all elections at all regional and national levels may be held only on the condition that the number of candidates is twice the number of the required delegate positions."

Among the signatories of this plan were: Musavi-Lari, Khalkhali, Montakhabnia, Hedayatollah Aqayi, Taslimi, Mozaffarinezhad, Salamati, Asghar Nuri, Hadi Khamene'i, Salehabadi, Asgharzadeh, Katirayi, Ahmadi, Dastgheyb, Ghaffari, Behzadian, Hadidchi (Dabbagh), Ashrafi-Esfahani, Rasul Musavi, Gholamhoseyn Aqayi, Nezhadian-Fard, Kavusi, Bayanak, Hazrati, Majid Ansari, Hoseyni-al-Madani.

Hadi Khamene'i (Explanation of the Plan)

In explaining the plan, Mr. Hadi Khamene'i in his remarks stated: We must pass certain regulations to ensure that in all elections there are at least twice the number of candidates for delegate positions in each area. In various elections, we must give the people the right and they must be told that you can elect one qualified person based on the standards with which you are familiar. They must decide freely and without succumbing to attractions, pressures, and all-encompassing propaganda.

Reason and logic dictate that, in order for the term "election" to apply, there must be many candidates—at least twice the required number. Otherwise, if the number of candidates is less or not enough people are participating, it is better for it to be called "appointment" rather than election.

In continuation, he added: In many towns and provinces the number of candidates are less than the number of delegate positions in some provinces. Therefore, the number of our candidates in some parts is less than the required. In fact, in some areas there have been no candidates. Naturally, in general the issue of elections, and especially the Assembly of Experts elections, is a very sensitive and important one. It is an important, future-making, and fateful issue for all the principals of the Islamic revolution and it is necessary that the elections for the Assembly of Experts is flawless, without any faults and void of any problem.

Mr. Khamene'i emphasized: We believe that we should solve this issue legally. The Interior Ministry has not said anything concerning this issue and we have no knowledge of their views. However, presently this issue is proceeding quietly. We believe that, ultimately, this issue has many problems and the Majles must make its decision today.

Movvahedi-Saveji (Opponent of the Triple Urgency Provision)

In opposition to the triple-urgency provision of the plane, Mr. Movvahedi-Saveji stated: In my view, this plan is fundamentally contradictory to the Constitution and does not concern the Majles at all. The limits and jurisdiction of the work of the Majles has been determined in the Constitution. Elections which concern the Majles include: The Majles elections and presidential elections. However, it has no business in connection with the leadership experts elections. the Majles can only ratify the law of implementation and supervision of elections. The leadership experts can pass resolutions governing the method for holding elections, the number of the members, and how their qualifications must be checked....

He added: I think this is merely a political move, and a number of gentlemen wish to take advantage of this opportunity to damage the unity, solidarity, power, and

greatness of the people and the revolution and the speaker of the Majles must stop this plan. This plan is not fit for presentation.

Constitutional Warning (Mr. Hejrati)

Mr. Hejrati, the representative of the people of Qazvin, expressed a constitutional warning concerning this plan and in his short remarks stated: It is stated in principal 108 of the Constitution that: "The law concerning the number and qualifications of experts, the method of their election, and internal guidelines governing their sessions must be composed, during the first term, by the jurists of the Council of Guardians, approved by their majority vote and endorsed by the leader of the revolution. After that, any change or review of this law and sanctioning other laws related to the duties of experts shall be within their own jurisdiction." Therefore, according to principal 108, this plan is unconstitutional.

Constitutional Warning (Saleh-Abadi)

Mr. Saleh-Abadi expressed a constitutional warning in connection with principal 99 of the Constitution and said: Principal 99 of the Constitution says: "The Council of Guardians is tasked with the supervision of the Assembly of Leadership Experts elections, presidential elections, the Majles elections, and general referendums." In regard to the issue at hand which must be determined, the Council of Guardians has directly interfered in this election. In many constituencies people were eliminated. Therefore, we believe this triple-urgency provision must be ratified in order to halt the elimination which has been perpetrated by the Council of Guardians, in violation of the Constitution.

Musavi-Lari (Proponent of the Triple-Urgency Provision)

As a proponent of the triple-urgency provision of the plan, Mr. Musavi-Lari, the deputy from Tehran, remarked: Only those who do not believe in the role and presence of the people on various scenes can accept the present situation. We are on the verge of a move through which people have been forced out of the scene. Also, with such unreasonable treatments in many provinces, the people cannot participate in the elections. We have suggested the triple-urgency proposal in order to prevent the occurrence of such a calamity.

Hadi Ghaffari (Opponent of the Triple-Urgency Provision)

As a deputy, I consider the plan "to affix the number of candidates in elections" to be sacrilegious if the motivation is to supervise the law of experts.

Mr. Ghaffari, who himself was a signatory of the triple-urgency provision plan, in opposition stated: I accept Mr. Musavi-Lari's assertions as it pertains to political issues and privation of the will and rights of the people. However, here we are discussing the triple-urgency provision. It was Mr. Hashemian's view that this plan does not accommodate a supervisory role over the election of the experts and, therefore, the triple-urgency is not required because much time is left to the fourth term elections.

He added: Based on principal 108 of the Constitution, "The law concerning the number and qualifications of experts, the method of their election, and internal guidelines governing their sessions must be composed, during the first term, by the jurists of the Council of Guardians, approved by their majority vote and endorsed by the leader of the revolution. After that, any change or review of this law and sanctioning other laws related to the duties of experts shall be within their own jurisdiction." Therefore, if the plan suggested here is not designed for supervision over the experts election then, certainly, it does not need a triple, a double, or even a single urgency. It is an ordinary piece of legislation and I will also agree that it be presented as such.

Also, Mr. 'Abdol'alizadeh spoke in agreement with the triple-urgency provision and then the plan for triple-urgency provision was put to a vote but did not pass.

The Double-Urgency Provision of the Plan

Then a number of deputies asked that double-urgency status be given the plan which, after remarks by Mr. Eslami, Mr. Movvahedi-Saveji in his remarks stated: Those who continue to pursue this matter know, deep down, that the election of experts has nothing to do with the Majles. However, in order for them to imbue in society that "this is not an election but an appointment in which the people should not partake" have started this game.

During the first term elections of leadership experts you see that in very few constituencies the number of candidates was twice the required delegate positions for the constituency. During the tenure of Mr. Mohtashemi in the Interior Ministry, in Khuzestan constituency, one person was required for the mid-term of the Experts Assembly and only one person had registered. In those days, no one said anything. There are many such examples.

In continuation, he added: In connection with the Majles, the person of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani was the sole candidate for speakership, while the elections were conducted and there was no objection. Concerning the connection of the vote with the regime of the Islamic Republic, that brother who spoke behind this pulpit engaged in sophistry when he said "that was a referendum and this is an election." He thought that, by using the word referendum, he has succeeded in transforming the election. The assertions of the gentlemen who say such things are baseless.

Mr. Movvahedi-Saveji emphasized: With the endorsement of the exalted leadership, all the people will participate in the Experts Assembly elections and these issues shall bear no negative effect on the elections. I say to the gentlemen that, as Mr. Hadi Ghaffari from your own group made the most justified assertion, if this plan is designed for the experts elections it is unconstitutional.

In connection with such plans, I urge everyone to keep God in mind and not ascribe to factionalism or ulterior motives. Do we intend to vote and speak on behalf of and for some groups and individuals? Therefore, I oppose the plan for double-urgency status.

Also, in agreement with the double-urgency plan, Mr. Majid Ansari stated: We ask that, in the provinces where the elections will not be held, will those individuals be selected by the leadership or by whom? This plan does not tie the hands of the Majles concerning its general definition of the election. The law has allowed the Majles to legislate in regard to all matters, including elections, and it is not unconstitutional.

After the remarks by Mr. Ansari, the plan for double-urgency provision was put to vote and passed.

The third item on the agenda was the question of Messrs. Mirvalad and Nowruzi from Mr. Qarazi, the minister of post and telegraph. After the question was posed and the minister's explanations, since the questioners were not satisfied with the answer, the question was referred to the commission for investigation of questions.

The final item on the agenda was the report of the first round of deliberations of the legal plan for "formation of the commission for eradication of deprivation" which the continuation of its investigation was postponed until the next session.

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

Main Points of New Constitution Detailed

BK0911135090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1326 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 9 (AFP)—King Birendra of Nepal Friday proclaimed a new constitution for his country, voluntarily relinquishing his sovereign authority to the people. The king, 47, made the historic proclamation in a brief speech from a golden throne in the royal palace over nationwide television and state radio.

The king said it was the tradition of monarchy to govern the country in accordance with the will of the people and with that in mind he had asked the Council of Ministers to prepare a constitution. A commission was set up to draft the document consolidating multi-party democracy and institutionalizing constitutional monarchy.

The king expressed his belief that under multi-party democracy the people's freedom would flourish. The new constitution was drafted after two months of sometimes violent demonstrations led to the dissolution of the partyless Panchayat [parliament] system in April and the installation of an interim government after multi-party elections.

It was promulgated Friday after more massive protests to pressure the king into agreeing to it after doubts that he would accept the renunciation of his personal powers. Ganesh Man Singh, head of the Nepali Congress, the main party in the interim government, welcomed the new constitution saying it had opened a new era with vast possibilities for political, social and economic development in Nepal.

He urged the government and the king to hold a general election as scheduled in April 1991. The main points of the constitution were as follows:

In the preamble fundamental human rights are recognized as are parliamentary government, a multi-party system, a constitutional monarchy and an independent judiciary, with sovereignty residing in the people. The executive powers of the country have been vested jointly in the monarch and the Council of Ministers, with the latter being responsible for the direction, supervison and administration of the kindgom.

The king is to appoint the leader of the majority party in parliament as the head of government, with other ministers to be appointed from among MPs [members of parliament] on the recommendation of the prime minister. If no one party commands a majority, a member who commands a majority on the basis of an alliance between two or more parties will be asked to form the government.

In cases where neither of the above apply the king will ask the party with the largest single number of representatives to form the government, although the head of such a government would have to be subject to a vote of confidence within 30-days. If it loses this vote, the king is to dissolve parliament and call fresh elections, again within 30-days.

Parliament is to be bicameral with a 205-seat house of representatives and a national council. The National Council is to include 10 members appointed by the king, 35 members including three women elected by the House of Representatives and 15 members elected by the electoral college made up of members of local committees from various development regions.

Members of the House of Representatives will hold their office for five years and those of the National Council for six years. Political parties must register with the election commission and to be recognized five per cent of candidates must be women and they must obtain at least three per cent of the total vote cast in elections to the House of Representatives.

The constitution also states that no law is to be passed which bans or lays restrictions on political parties. In the event of a national emergency, including war, armed revolt or extreme economic depression, the king may declare a state of emergency, but such declarations must be approved by the House of Representatives within three months.

During the emergency basic rights, except the right of habeas corpus, may be suspended. All citizens are to be equal before the law and there is to be no discrimination on the basis of religion, race, sex, caste, tribe or ideology.

Capital punishment is to be abolished and freedom of expression, freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom to form unions and associations and freedom of movement have all been guaranteed. Previous rules on censorship have been removed and the freedom of press and publication have been guaranteed.

A three-tier judicial system has been set up comprising the Supreme Court, the appellate courts and the district courts. On criminal laws, people may only be punished in accordance with the law and a person may not be prosecuted for the same offence more than once.

Those detained may not be ill-treated and must be brought before the courts within 24-hours of their arrest. Information on the reason for the arrest must also be made available. A suspect may not be forced to give evidence against himself.

Religious rights have been guaranteed and religious groups have been given the right to manage and protect religious places and trusts. Personal rights include a right to privacy and inviolability of the person and property. Ways of seeking redress if any of these rights are infringed are also included in the constitution. The constitution may be amended by a two thirds majority in each house of parliament, but no changes are allowed to alter the spirit of the preamble.

Pakistan

Talks With India Said Put Off 'Indefinitely'

BK1911114290 Karachi DAWN in English 19 Nov 90 p 12

[Text] Islamabad, Nov. 18—The third round of talks between the Foreign Secretaries of Pakistan and India appear to have been put off indefinitely. It was originally scheduled to be held in October last.

Official sources said there has been no decision yet on the date for the next round of Foreign Ministers' talks which are to be held in Islamabad.

The delay in holding the Foreign Ministers' talks is said to have been caused mainly because of the political uncertainty and the change of governments in both the countries.

The last round of talks was held in Delhi in July this year but was adjourned without reaching any tangible decisions. The Foreign Secretaries are required to formulate agreed recommendations to defuse tension between the two countries mainly because of the reported troops' movements close to their common border.

It is, however, obvious that the relations between the two countries have indeed become more tense recently. This time, because of the political reasons arising from the communal confrontation over the Babri Masjid [disputed mosque] and the continuing police and paramilitary action in the Kashmir valley to quell the Kashmiri Muslims' uprising.

The Prime Ministers of Pakistan and India may possibly be meeting privately in the Maldives when they both represent their countries at the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit on Nov 21. But it is generally believed that even if such a meeting outside the pale of summit is held in Male, it is doubtful that it will be more than a courtesy call.

Both the Prime Ministers, Mr Nawaz Sharif and Mr Chandra Shekhar, took charge of their respective governments very recently and are apparently still deeply preoccupied with their domestic problems. However, Mr Sharif had had a fairly detailed Military Intelligence briefing a few days ago on the security environment including the situation obtaining in India, the held Kashmir and the Gulf. Mr Shekhar in the given Indian political situation, is expected hardly to undertake any meaningful talks with his Pakistani counterpart.

As a rule, contentious issues between member-States, unless they relate to the SAARC Charter, are not discussed at the summit and as such no discussion on Pakistan-India bilateral issues is expected to figure at the Maldives summit.

Bomb Blast in Lahore Leaves 10 Injured

BK2011043790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Ten persons were injured in a plastic bomb blast near the old Ravi bridge in Lahore yesterday. Punjab Chief Minister Ghulam Haider Wyne has expressed sorrow and distress over the blast and has expressed sympathy with the victims.

Editorial Urges End to Dependence on Aid

BK1611145790 Karachi DAWN in English 16 Nov 90 p 9

[Editorial: "Self-Reliance—a Slogan or a Goal"]

[Text] Pakistan, having become an addict of foreign assistance which flowed in great abundance during the last decade as a result of the Afghanistan crisis, faces an abrupt aid cutoff from the most important source of aid—the United States. That country has been providing about 20 per cent of the total economic aid and the entire quantum of military assistance to Pakistan. If Washington chooses to be vindictive and decides to push Pakistan for its so-called defiant posture on the nuclear issue—the principal bone of contention—it can adversely affect the decisions of other donors as well—indirectly through the IMF and the World Bank and directly through pressure on other donors. That stage may not, however, come because we have now raised the

POL [Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants] prices and undertaken to implement other conditionalities of the IMF and also because, by all indications the initiative for aid suspension has not come from the US government. It has come from a number of Senators, who seem to have forced the hands of the US President by taking advantage of certain aid-related legislations. Our own indiscretion in publicising the progress of our nuclear technology in recent years, too, might have made some contribtion to the application of the aid freeze.

Whatever the reason, the crisis for Pakistan is real and has come at a time when the Gulf events are taking atoll of Pakistan's economy: oil price hike, reduction in remittances and the decline in export earnings. The aid suspension coincided with our elections when national emotions were running high and contestants were pone to make political capital out of every development regardless of its merit or relevance and take extreme partisan positions. The persistance of that even after the elections is indeed unfortunate. While every Pakistani would like the President and the Prime Minister to stand firm on issues of national self-respect and fundamental national interests and goals, he is equally aware of the strategic importance of foreign assistance to our economy and our special relationship with the US. The Government has already made it clear that it was keen not only to maintain the warmth of these ties but to improve them. The US should logically be expected to reciprocate this spirit and not strengthen the impression that its friendship and commitments are no more durable than its transient interests and shifting priorities.

Having said this, we need to remind ourselves that foreign aid today constitutes about 80 per cent of our Annual Development Programme; that about 25 per cent of government revenues originate from it and about the same proportion is contributed to the balance of payments. We, as a nation and individual citizens, have been living beyond our means for a long time. Our elite classes, controlling the State power, are not prepared to share the sacrifices which they routinely pas on, year after year, to the common man. Given this context, our dependence on foreign aid would seem irreversible. That context must change. The determination and political will expressed by the President in recent days and by the new Prime Minister not to obtain aid at any cost should not be made contingent on whether the donor countries are adequately mindful of our national honour and dignity or not. Protection of these must be our supreme concern and giving these a secure basis in the realities of life our cherished long-term national objective. To achieve self-reliance, however, abjuring consumerism by all classes and adoption of austerity on national and individual levels are imperative. Comprehensive efforts wil have to be mounted to raise domestic savings—currently a paltry 6 percent of GDP [Gross Domestic Product] and the lowest even among the developing countries. Living within means has to be practised, not preached. Waste in governemnt expenditure and individual living has to be ruthlessly-eliminated. Equity in taxation system is indispensable. All incomes need to be treated equally and all exemptions withdrawn. Evasion of taxes has to be declared and treated as a serious social crime, severely punishable under the law which must be enforced effectively and without discrimination. All obstacles to full utilisation of the existing productive capacities of land, manpower and industry have to be removed and the productivity of all the three sectors fostered. A comprehensive stragegy such as this alone can restore budgetary balance, respond to citizens' needs for education, health and welfare, improve the external payments position and provide fillip to industrialisation. These measures require, first and foremost, a social revolution aimed at changing the outlook and consumption habits of the people and the false values of contemporary life and drastic economic reforms. Time is past when tinkering would do. Are the managers of the national affairs ready for it? Without firm determination and a clear policy of tax reforms, self-reliance may remain just a slogan and an elusive goal.

75,000 Afghans Repatriated Under UN Program

BK1811064890 Hong Kong AFP in English
1828 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 17 (AFP)—Some 75,000 Afghan refugees have returned home from Pakistan under a United Nations-sponsored repatriation scheme, U.N. officials here said Saturday.

Another 100,000 of the more than three million Afghans in Pakistan have returned on their own, the deputy chief of the U.N. Office of the Coordinator for Humanitarian Assistance Relating to Afghanistan (UNOCA) rehabilitation programme, Zia Rizvi, told a news conference here.

Under a three-month pilot project begun in July, UNOCA envisaged repatriation of 300,000 refugees.

The project achieved only 25 percent success because the Pakistan-based Afghan resistance opposes voluntary repatriation without a political settlement to the 12-year-old Afghan conflict, Mr. Rizvi said.

"Naturally it had an impact on the refugees' return," he added.

But he warned that "increasing reluctance" on the part of some donor countries to fulfil their aid pledges has limited the U.N. rehabilitation programmes.

Despite the continuing conflict, the UNOCA and non-governmental organisations have launched 473 projects—valued at 765 million dollars and related to agriculture, health, food aid, mine-clearing, education and training, Mr. Rizvi said.

Donor countries "must give the United Nations system the means to drive in a humanitarian wedge for peace," he added.

Mujahidin Capture 12 Regime Posts 13 Nov

BK1611141790 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 16 Nov 90 p 8

[Text] Islamabad, Nov. 15—The Mujahidin jointly attacked communist regime's posts in Deh Now, Lashker Khil Gulab Qala, Moghul Khil and Surkhab's areas of Mohammad Aghan district of Lowgar Province capturing 12 posts, killing 20 troops, and injuring an innumerable others, on Nov. 13. A Mujahidin source reports to MIDIA [Media Information Department of Islamic Afghanistan] from the province.

The Mujahidin have also burned three tanks, and held a number of assorted weapons and ammunition. Three Mujahids were martyred in the attack, the report added.

Three regime's supply vehicles were damaged when the Mujahidin staged an operation on Baraki Barak district of Lowgar province on the same date.

Kabul regime, after its forces had been pushed back by the Mujahidin in Moghul Khil and Deh Now areas of the said province, has sent fresh troops for the second time to recapture the areas, on Nov. 13.

The reports added fightings were still continuing between the Mujahidin and regime's forces. Till now, four Mujahids sustained injuries and one was captured by the Gelam Jam's militiamen.

Sri Lanka

Finance Minister Speaks on Features of Budget

BK1611132590 Colombo International Servicecv in English 1045 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Prime Minister and Finance Minister D.B. Wijetunge presented the third budget of the present government in Parliament yesterday. The prime minister told Parliament that the government has been able to bring the budget deficit without printing currency notes during the 1989 financial year. He added that the monetary system adopted by him was entirely different from that of other finance ministers. He noted that currency notes worth 35,000 million rupees were printed and bank loans obtained to face financial difficulties during the 1977-1988 period. This has resulted in the increase of inflation and the reduction in the value of the Sri Lankan rupee. The prime minister told Parliament that government will take every possible measure not to follow monetary policies of this nature. He added that 1,119 million rupees have been paid to the banking system during (?his tenure) as the country's finance minister.

Mr. Wijeratne presented proposals to bridge the budget deficit of 60,550 million rupees. Accordingly, Sri Lanka received 8,000 million rupees as foreign grant. The total number of foreign loans is 27,000 million rupees.

The prime minister in his budget speech pointed out that the foremost emphasis on government policy continues to be on the Janasaviya [welfare program] which is the brain child of the president. He added that it is of particular significance that the World Bank's major focus of policy today is on poverty alleviation. The government is continuing to make efforts to reduce the role of the state in economic activities. A new industrial strategy has been devised. The government has emphasized the need to increase production of other value added export crops. Necessary incentives will be provided to attract foreign investment. The government's objective next year is not only to consolidate the achievements of the first two years but to further extend the new vision and the new deal of the president.